■ News / A9
Husband and wife fail lifestyle check, are dismissed

■ Business / B1
Trade gap hits $1.2B as imports rise

■ World / A13
4,000 corrupt Chinese officials absconded with $50B

■ Metro / A23 / A24
14 Manila courts have had no judges for last 6 years

Reyes orders new probe into Jaworski-Yap 'shootout' case

■ Entertainment / A32
Robin's talent fees to go to painting of mosques in Taguig

Aguirre twin treated for infection, fluid in skull

CARL Aguirre, one of the formerly conjoined twins from Silay, Negros Occidental, was treated for fluid in his skull wounds and for a urinary tract infection, officials of the Montefiore Medical Center in New York City said yesterday.

Two-year-old Carl underwent a 25-minute "maintenance check" for doctors to get a closer look at how his wounds were healing," ac-

AGUIRRE/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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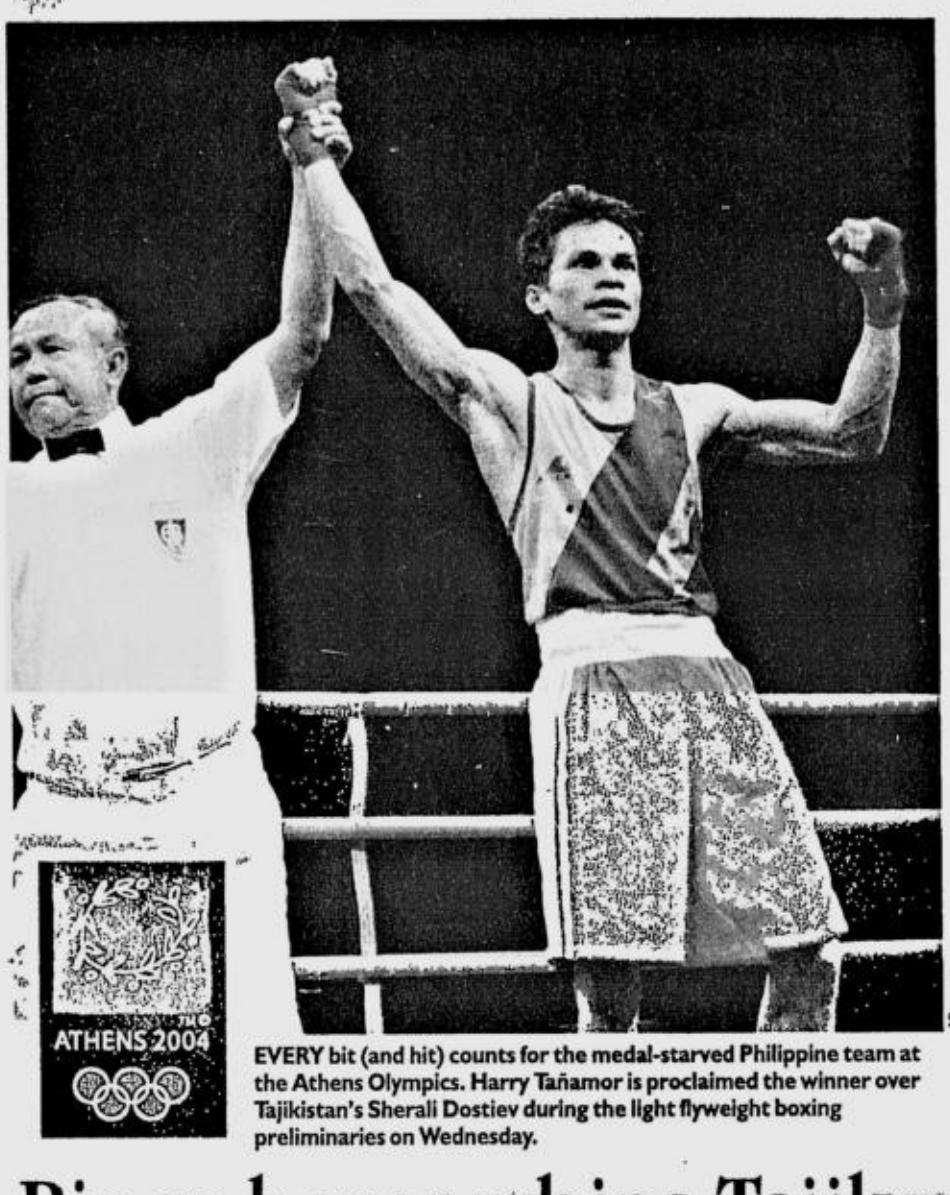
Tiniest baby ever now 14-year-old achiever

WASHINGTON—The tiniest baby ever to survive at birth is now a 14-year-old high achiever, according to the doctors who had delivered her.

But the doctors denied that Madeline Mann was a

TINIEST/ A10



EVERY bit (and hit) counts for the medal-starved Philippine team at the Athens Olympics. Harry Tañamor is proclaimed the winner over Tajikistan's Sherali Dostiev during the light flyweight boxing preliminaries on Wednesday.

Pinoy boxer whips Tajik, gives RP reason to hope

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—Light flyweight Harry Tañamor overcame a jittery start and a tenacious opponent as he counterpunched his way to the next round of the boxing competitions on Wednesday night, keeping the Philippines' flickering medal hopes alive in the 28th Olympic Games here.

The tiniest and lightest of the four Filipino boxers entered here needed the fourth and final round to subdue Sherali Dostiev of Tajikistan on points at the Peristeri Olympic Boxing Hall and give the Philippines reason to be hopeful going into the second week of the competitions.

He also had to overcome his jitters in his Olympic debut, eking out a 17-12 decision two days before his 27th birthday.

"*Nanibago ako* (I felt different)," a visibly excited Tañamor told Filipino officials after the fight. He was smiling broadly and jumping up and down in child-like exuberance as he related how he had trouble hitting a quickly moving target.

"It's a big boost. It has a psychological effect on the whole Philippine team, especially in taekwondo," said boxing leader and former Manila Mayor Mel Lopez.

Three Filipinos will be entertaining faint medal hopes in taekwondo when action starts Aug. 26 at the Faliro Pavilion.

Tshomlee Go kicks off taekwondo action for the Filipinos in the under-58 kg division on Aug. 26. On Aug. 28, Mary Antoinette Rivero fights in the women's under-67 kg class and Donald Geisler III competes in the under-80 kg category.

PINOY BOXER/ A8

New defense secretary under siege

Pimentel: Appointment like bolt out of the blue

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Alcuin Papa

THE NEW defense secretary cannot understand why his appointment appears to be the most controversial among the new members of the Cabinet.

"I don't think I'm the most controversial [appointee]. I'm just the logical consequence of the recommendation of the Davide and Feliciano Commissions that a civilian—someone who does not come from the military—should head the Department of National Defense," Avelino "Nonong" Cruz Jr. of "The Firm" yesterday said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself was forced to come to the defense of Cruz, a top lawyer who once served as her chief legal counsel and who has no experience with the uniformed service.

"I want a civilian to head the DND," Ms Arroyo said in Cebu City.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said some appointments like Avelino "Nonong" Cruz and former Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, who was named justice secretary, could be questioned.

"Nonong for example is like a bolt coming out from the blue," Pimentel told reporters. "So we would like to find out what makes the President and Nonong think that he is fit for the position."

As for Gonzalez, he said the former Iloilo representative "would have many questions to answer because of his manifest political bias in

NEW DEFENSE/ A20

GMA: They must agree with me

By Jolene R. Bulambot, Bernadette Parco and Juliet Labog-Javellana

CEBU CITY—Aside from being "best suited" for the job, the bottom line is they have to agree with her.

President Macapagal-Arroyo explained to reporters the standards that guided her in choosing members of her official family, and denied that political indebtedness was a consideration.

"The programs that the Cabinet secretaries will implement are my programs. They must agree with me, they must be an extension of me. I can't have a Cabinet member whom I will be arguing with all the time," Ms Arroyo said Wednesday night at an informal press conference at Malacañang sa Sugbu, the Palace in the South.

GMA/ A20

Cabinet revamp called a 'rigodon'

By Michael Lim Ubac
Cynthia D. Balana
and Elizabeth L. Sanchez, *Business*

A MERE *rigodon* (musical chairs). Same dogs with new collars. Payback time.

These were some of the reactions to Malacañang's announcement of the "partial list" of 33 appointees to the Cabinet and other top government posts.

Stock analysts noted that Malacañang did not include key economic posts, which investors say have an impact on the country's budget deficit, interest rates and investments,

The research head of a brokerage firm said the market was looking for changes in the finance, budget and treasury departments and the bureaus of internal revenue and customs.

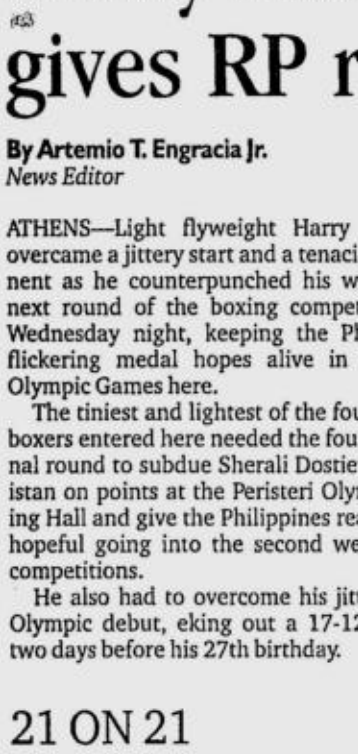
"In this sense, it (Cabinet revamp) didn't matter much to the market," the research head, who asked not to be named, said.

Sen. Richard Gordon described the appointments as more of a "rigodon" than a revamp.

CABINET/ A20

21 ON 21

Convicted soldier tags close Aquino relative



EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A BAGUIO artist brushes up his Ninoy Aquino portrait as it is that time of year again when the nation honors his martyrdom.

By Philip C. Tubeza
Margaux C. Ortiz
and Jo Clemente,
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ON THE EVE of the 21st anniversary of Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.'s assassination, one of the convicted soldiers said that a "close relative" of former President Corazon Aquino had masterminded the cold-blooded murder.

In a four-page affidavit, former MSgt. Pablo Martinez said that fall guy Rolando Galman and two other men involved in the killing were "men of a close relative of ex-President Cory Aquino."

"I will name his name in the proper forum," Martinez said.

Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III was quick to rule out the involvement of his uncle, businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., in the assassination of his father.

Cojuangco, who heads San Miguel Corp. (SMC), was said to be out of the country.

Congressman Aquino reiterat-

CONVICTED/ A21

AP BULLIT MARQUEZ

REPORTING for duty, Madam President. Ms Arroyo returns the salutes of the captives freed by the NPA, Army 1st Lt. Ronaldo Fidelino (left) and Private First Class Ronel Nemeño who meet with her in the Palace of the South in Cebu City on Wednesday night. Also in photo is Lea, Fidelino's wife. (At left) Clean-shaven and in uniform, Fidelino and Nemeño arrive for a news conference in Manila.

Bicol village 'shocked and awed'

By Joyce Mejillano
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

"MAY SYUTING!"

The village children saw television cameras and thought it was a movie crew setting up for a location shoot.

Were they excited? A news photographer said it was closer to "shocked and awed."

Barangay Poblacion in Presentacion, Camarines Sur, is a remote coastal village that had surely never seen anything like it—a press retinue. Until Wednesday, when over 30 vehicles bearing local and national media people rolled in at about 4 p.m.

The village sprung up. Intrigued residents bounded out of their homes and followed the convoy, which stopped at a cemented portion of the main road in Sitio Santa Maria.

BICOL/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon and eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/20/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Nene said to be quitting as Senate minority leader

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. is considering resigning as Senate minority leader after he voted with the majority on the proposed amendment to the legislative calendar of the 13th Congress.

This was disclosed yesterday by a minority member who said the group was set to meet on Monday to discuss Pimentel's proposal to quit as its leader.

The Senate approved the other night the proposal to have the congressional sessions run from July 25 to Sept. 24, adjourning for a month. Sessions would then resume on Oct. 17 and then adjourn again on Dec. 17 for the holiday break.

A debate between the majority and minority erupted when opposition Senators Sergio Osmeña and Juan Ponce Enrile opposed the proposed schedule.

In the end, Pimentel voted with the 12 senators in the majority to approve the measure.

Except for Sen. Edgardo Angara, who was absent on Wednesday, the remaining seven minority senators voted against the proposal.

Pimentel refused to confirm reports of his resignation as the leader of the minority bloc "until we discuss the issue."

"I don't intend to wash dirty linen in public," Pimentel told reporters.

Pimentel said all he wanted was for the "calendar to be defined so that we can move on."

"The activities of Congress depend on the calendar," he said.

The minority source said some members of the bloc did not blame Pimentel for what he did as the latter did take up with them the proposal to amend the calendar during a caucus last Monday.

During the meeting, Pimentel told the members that he had accepted in behalf of the minority the proposed amendment to the calendar.

The source said Enrile opposed the proposal because he wanted long working hours.

The matter was not resolved as the session was about to begin and the meeting had to end, the source said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said he had received no report of Pimentel's plan to resign as minority leader. It was a "matter for the minority to decide," he said.

Through sheer force of numbers, the ruling bloc voted 13 to 7 on Wednesday night to pass the proposed congressional calendar.

Pimentel supported the majority since it was a slight modification of his proposed calendar, which more or less had eight months of work and a one-month break in between every two months.

The issue on whether to extend the Senate break from two to four weeks threw the chamber into a heated debate, which somewhat strained the patience of neophyte Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid.

Lapid stood up and denounced the divisiveness in the Senate. He said the minority who were against extending the break should not take it against the majority members if they insisted on the longer break.

PAINFUL HOMECOMING
Rep. Ignacio Arroyo (Kampi, Negros Occidental) pushes the wheelchair of overseas Filipino worker Liezl Gustilo, 23, who returned to the country yesterday from Kuwait. Gustilo, shown with her sister Ritchel, escaped from her employer who maltreated her and did not pay her salary. ROGER MARGALLO

Kampi mulls crossing over to minority

By Carlito Pablo

THE POLITICAL of President Macapagal-Arroyo is thinking of going opposition in the House of Representatives, using the maverick stance of former Vice President Teofisto Guingona as a model.

The Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) yesterday made this announcement after it was booted out of the ruling coalition in the House led by the dominant Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

"If they [the majority coalition] don't want us, what can we do?" the Kampi president, Rep. Ronaldo Puno (Antipolo), said in a phone interview.

"It's either you're with the majority or the minority. If Lakas has kicked us out of the ruling coalition, then we'd go opposition," Puno said.

Puno said he has already met with the leaders of the minority bloc, Representatives Ronaldo Zamora (PMP, San Juan), Jacinto Paras (LDP, Negros Oriental) and Rolex Suplico (LDP, Iloilo).

"We're studying the option of forging a new alliance with the minority and forming a new minority bloc in the House," Puno said.

When it was pointed out that Kampi was in somewhat of an identity crisis as Kampi's chair was no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo herself, Puno said: "One can belong to an administration party and yet be in the minority. There is no inconsistency."

Puno cited the case of Guingona who for most of his stint as the country's second highest official was at odds with the President. Guingona was at one time the Senate minority leader while belonging to the ruling Lakas-CMD.

How long will Aglipay serve?

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE APPOINTMENT of Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay as Philippine National Police chief has triggered another round of second-guessing in the force.

The question uppermost in people's minds is how long Aglipay, whose mandatory retirement falls exactly 24 days from today, would stay in the post.

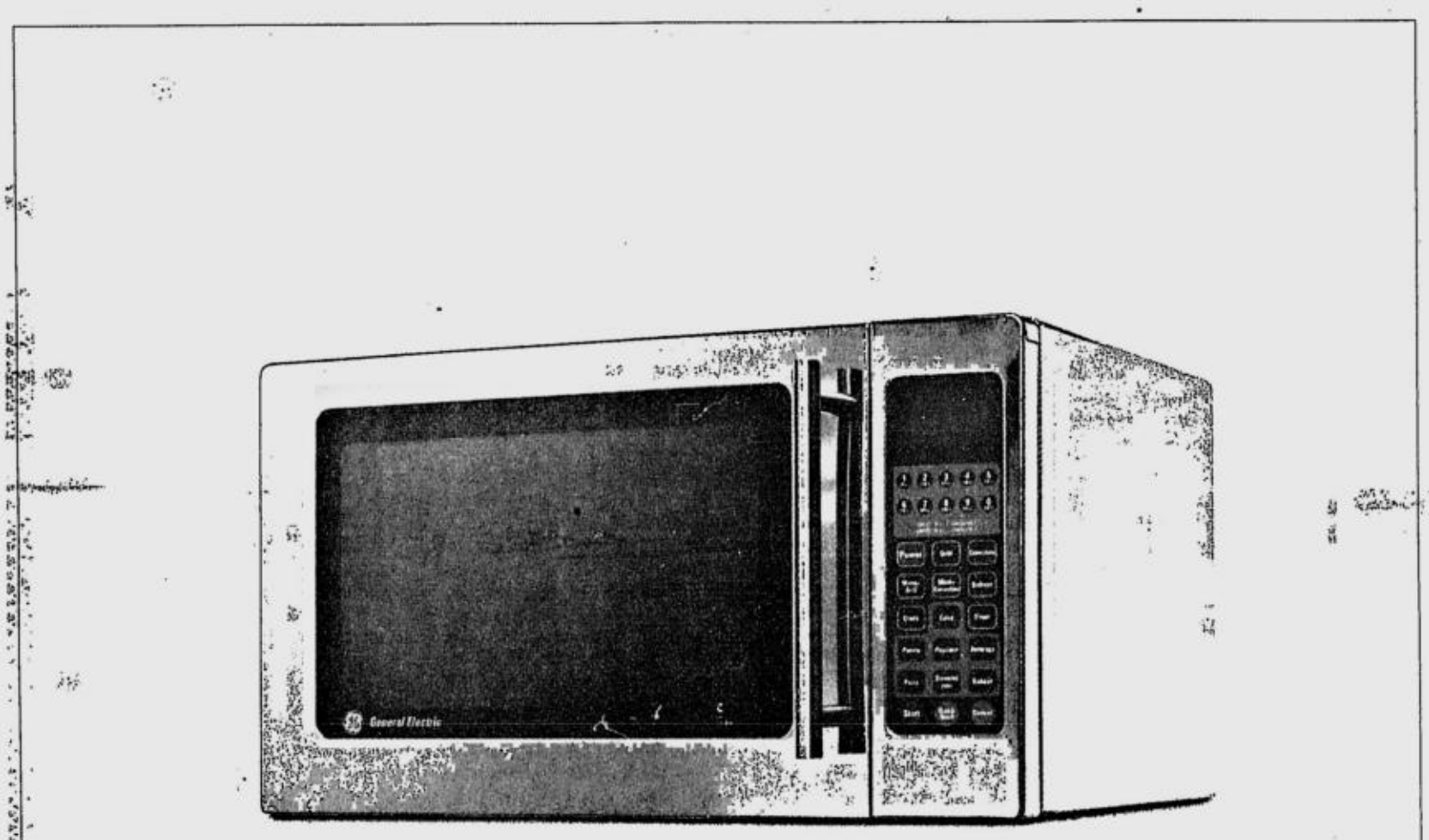
According to a police general, Aglipay himself had said that he would stay in the post until December, giving way to Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, the other top contender to replace outgoing PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane who has been appointed National Security Adviser.

Weeks before his appointment, Aglipay had told the INQUIRER that a term of "four to six months" would be enough for him to implement "important reforms" in the 115,000-strong organization.

"I also want to give others a chance. I just want to put in place some programs which I believe will lay the foundation for a much better organization and for succeeding PNP chiefs to follow," he said.

But even if Aglipay were to step down in less than six months, it is by no means certain that Gil would get the coveted post, another ranking PNP official said.

Gil will reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 in March next year and a December appointment would leave him with just three months to serve, the source said. ***With reports from Luige del Puerto, Leila B. Salaverria and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***



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Imee's app't to CA causes uproar

By Carlito Pablo

LIKE the divided majority coalition in the House of Representatives, the minority bloc in the lower chamber is also embroiled in factional infighting.

Sparking the free-for-all among opposition House legislators was the designation of Rep. Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte) as the lone opposition representative in the 12-member House contingent to the powerful Commission on Appointments.

Nothing personal

The opposition factions of Representatives Ronaldo Zamora (PMP, San Juan) and Jacinto Paras (LDP, Negros Oriental) were in an uproar over the nomination of Marcos to the CA by Minority Leader Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon).

"There's nothing personal here. This is purely a constitutional issue," Zamora said.

Proportional

Zamora noted that the Constitution mandates that the appointment of members to the CA should be in proportion to the number of members of a political party in the Congress.

Marcos, the daughter of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, is the lone representative of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan party in the House and should not be entitled to a CA seat, Zamora said.

Paras said that his party, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, has 12 members in the House and should be entitled to represent the opposition in the CA.

Escudero's nomination of Marcos was a clear indication of the "unholy alliance" between him and the majority, said Rep. Rolex Suplico (LDP, Iloilo).

"The majority has the minority leader in its pocket," Suplico said.

Endorsed by 21

If Zamora, Paras and Suplico wanted Escudero to withdraw Marcos' nomination, which had been approved by the House, Escudero was not about to oblige them.

Escudero said Marcos' nomination was endorsed by 21 members of the opposition bloc of 31 members.

"I can't withdraw it. The minority bloc voted for Imee," he said.

Escudero also lashed out at members of the opposition factions in the House but did not mention anyone by name.

No arm-twisting

"The problem is that they want to dictate everything," he said.

In a statement, Marcos said she was selected through a "normal democratic process."

"I did not twist anybody's arm to get the support of my fellow congressmen in the opposition. We should be happy we are at least represented," she said.

Big 3 oil firms hike prices by P.30/liter

By Abigail L. Ho

THE COUNTRY'S top three oil players Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. finally succumbed to high world oil prices, jacking up the prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 30 centavos a liter.

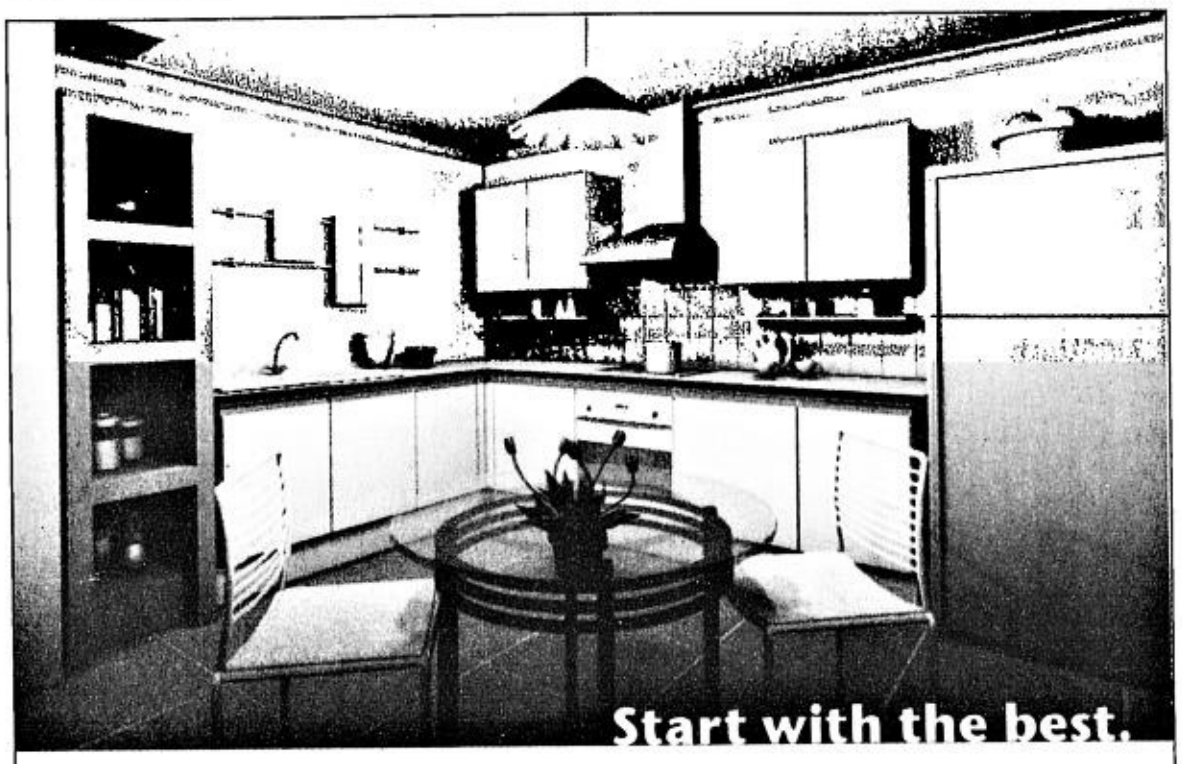
Caltex's increase took effect Wednesday at 12:01 a.m. while those of Shell and Petron took effect at 12:01 a.m. yesterday.

Shell general manager for external affairs Roberto Kanapi said local pump prices were bound to remain high if international prices did not let up.

"We have to come to terms with the reality that local pump prices will remain high as long as world crude prices are high," Kanapi said in a telephone interview yesterday.

The benchmark Dubai crude, which oil refiners Shell and Petron use to price their products, breached the $40-a-barrel mark Wednesday, closing at $40.27 a barrel.

That price surge pushed the Aug. 1-18 average to $39.64 a barrel, only 36 US cents shy of the $40-a-barrel mark. The July Dubai crude average was placed at $34.65 a barrel.



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Despite Aussie rancor, its navy to train in RP

By Alcuin Papa

DESPITE Australia's recent tirades against the Philippines over the latter's pullout of its troops from Iraq, the two countries are holding a joint naval training exercise until the end of the month.

Dubbed "PN-RAN Exercise Lumbas 2004," the Philippine Navy and the Royal Australian Navy are conducting the exercise off the eastern coast of Palawan near the oil-rich Malampaya fields.

A statement released by the Philippine Navy said the joint exercise "aims to enhance interoperability readiness of the two navies in combined naval operations."

The Philippine Navy forces are led by Capt. Armando Rodriguez, commander of Naval Task Force 41, who also serves as exercise director. The forces are composed of a SEAL (sea, air, land) team from the Naval Special Warfare Unit 4, a navy fixed-wing aircraft and two ships, namely, the BRP Bienvenido Salting and BRP Heracleo Alano.

The Australian Navy, on the other hand, has brought along two ships, the HMAS Dubbo and the HMAS Geraldton.

The exercise has five phases but is basically a maritime surveillance exercise.

The first phase was the preparation phase which began on Aug. 10.

The second phase was the arrival phase which started yesterday. This included the arrival of the vessels, courtesy calls and reception for the crews.

The exercise comes a month after the Australian government criticized Manila for abruptly pulling its troops out of Iraq to save the life of Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz who was threatened with beheading by Islamic militants.

The Philippines filed a diplomatic protest after Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Manila had acted like a "marshmallow" by withdrawing its forces. *With AFP*

Pinay dies in N Zealand storm

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—Police found the body of a missing Filipino woman Thursday, the only fatality of a violent storm that dumped heavy snow and torrential rain over central New Zealand in recent days.

The body of postal worker Erlinda Warrington, 46, who disappeared as she drove to work before dawn on Wednesday, was found in a flooded stream near the rural town of Bidewell in Wairarapa, said police Senior Sgt. Warwick Burr.

Burr said the rear windows of her delivery van, which was found nearby, were open, suggesting Warrington had scrambled clear of the vehicle but was caught in the floodwaters before she could reach safety.

Winds that reached 180 kph earlier this week abated Thursday, allowing transport services in and out of the capital, Wellington, to resume.

At the height of the storm, trains, ferry services and flights were halted, stranding some 9,000 travelers. Several highways were blocked by mudslides, floodwaters and heavy snow.

The farm regions of Manawatu and Wairarapa to the north of the capital were inundated by floodwaters overnight Wednesday for the second time in six months.

Police said one house was pushed from its foundations after a hillside landslip knocked it part-way down the hill. The occupant escaped unharmed. *AP*

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the front-page banner story misstated the new Philippine ambassador to Belgium. The newly appointed ambassador is Lilia Bautista—not Lilia de Lima.

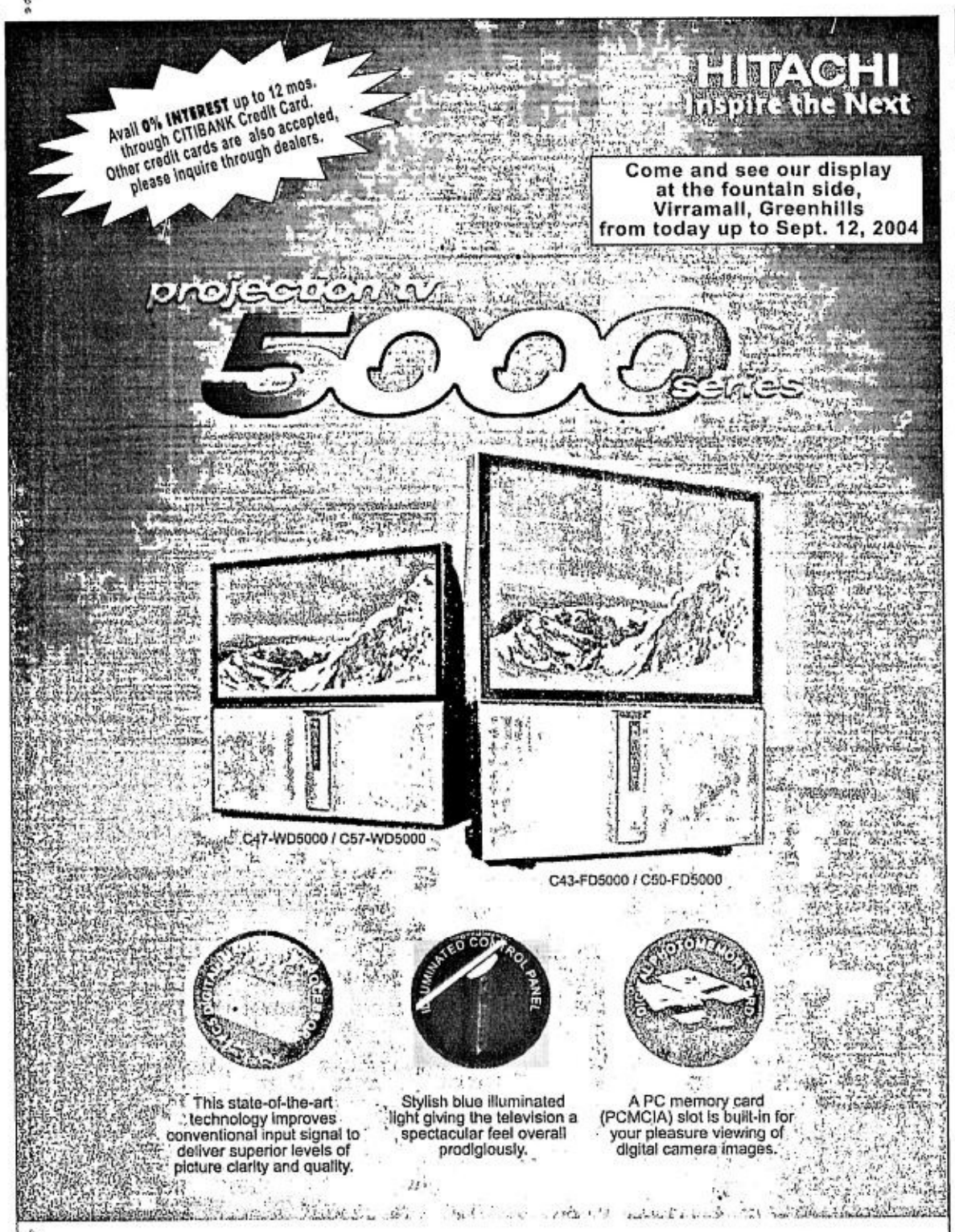
* * *

IN THE BUSINESS section of yesterday's issue, the caption of a photo on Page B8 misstated that Mary Jane Ortega was the mayor of San Fernando, Pampanga. Ortega is the mayor of San Fernando City in La Union.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.



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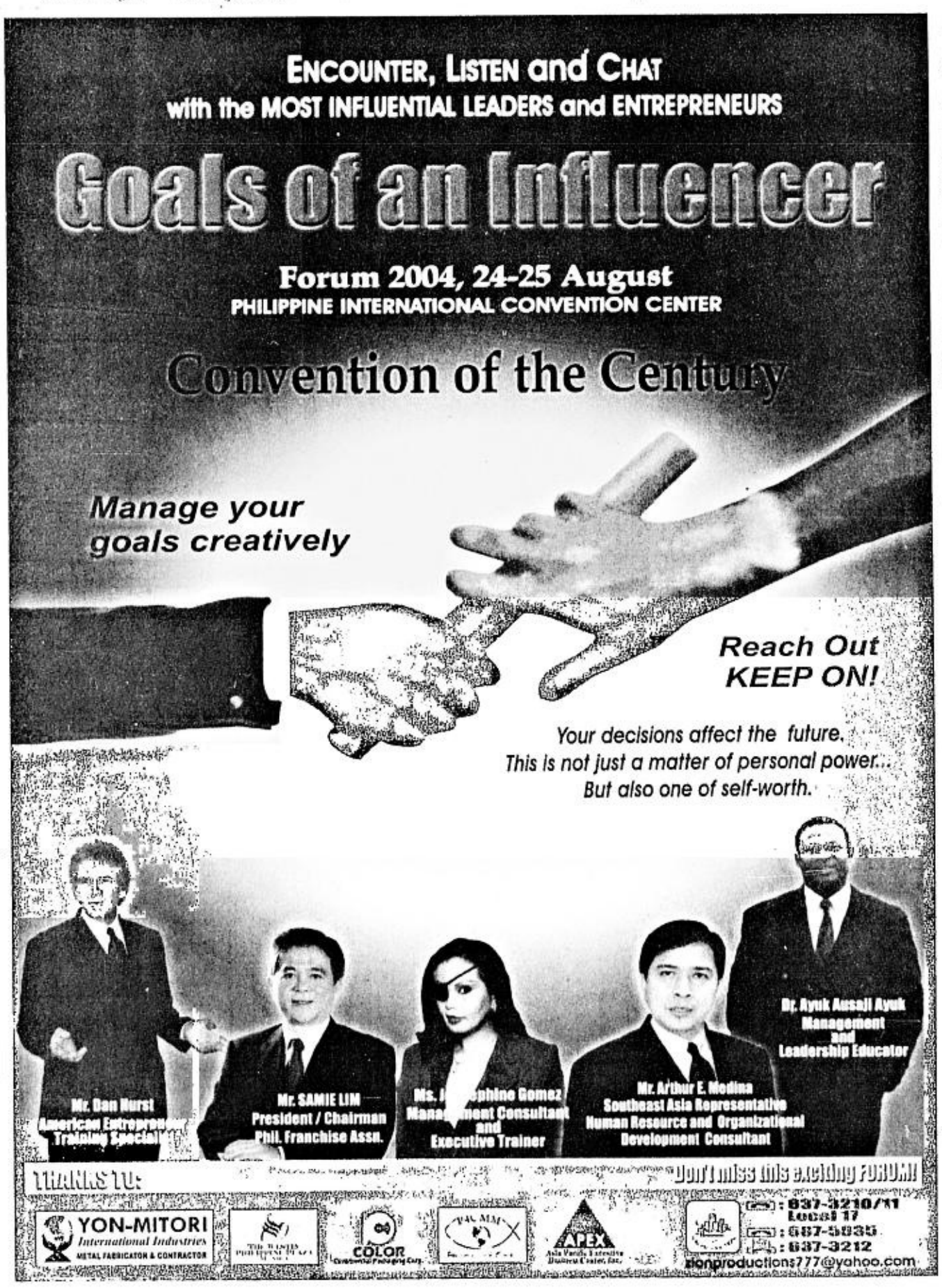

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Consumers miss out on water bill refund

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 20, 2004
20th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezk 37:1-14
Gospel: Mt 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard how Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. One of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to test him with this question, "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and the most important of the commandments. But after this there is another one very similar to it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole Law and the Prophets are founded on these two commandments."

Commentary

I mentioned my rediscovery of the penny catechism after many years: the one that tried to equip us for life with knowledge of God, but forgot to mention that God was love. We older people grew up with that, and we pray that it didn't sink in too deeply! But it did go deep with many sensitive people. I don't know the motives of the publishers who recalled this nightmare stuff to us; perhaps they believe that people are longing for old certitudes in a world of rapid change. That is undoubtedly true, and it's a good thing to get down to basics at such a time. But the basics are the gospels, and not a dated catechism. The word that renews and strengthens us and sets us free is the word of God.

The catechism looked tough and hard-edged-no nonsense-and it could make talk of love seem weak and sentimental. But Christian love is first and foremost about knowing God: without it, we don't know what we are talking about when we talk about God. John wrote, "The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1Jn 4:8). After that, it is about loving our neighbor. It is not a weak and self-indulgent feeling, but a practical way of life.

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By Christine Gayllcan

CONSUMERS may have just missed out on a refund in their water bills.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office (MWSS-RO) has given up on its plan to adopt the recent Supreme Court ruling disallowing corporate income taxes as part of operating expenses.

This would have led to a reduction in the tariff rates set by the two private water concessionaires, Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc., and resulted in an estimated P1.1-billion refund to water consumers, not unlike the refund the Supreme Court had ordered Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) to make to its customers.

In a board resolution issued last week, the MWSS-RO accepted the argument that its concessionaires were not "public utilities" but "mere agents of the MWSS."

Manila Water and Maynilad had opposed implementation of the Supreme Court ruling since this would mean a tariff cutback of from P100 to P150 for a household consuming at least 30 cubic meters a month.

MWSS sources said the cutback would have been in the form of discounts in tariffs to be imposed on the concessionaires' millions of customers.

In separate papers submitted to the MWSS-RO, Manila Water and Maynilad said the regulator had no basis for adopting the Supreme Court ruling.

"The SC decision in the Meralco case concerned a public utility. Our company is not a public utility subject to a rate base but [is] a mere agent and contractor of the MWSS," said Manila Water president Antonino T. Aquino.

Manila Water also said its business plan approved by the MWSS-RO on Oct. 25, 2002, stated that income tax payments were expenditures.

"The MWSS Regulatory Office correctly approved the business plan. Our income tax payments are expenditures in accordance with the concession agreement... The concession agreement defined expenditures to include Philippine business taxes of the concessionaire," Manila Water said.

The MWSS-RO refused to make its resolution public and did not want to provide a copy to media. The INQUIRER was able to peruse a copy of the resolution which had been posted on its bulletin board.

Comment on 'unbundling' plea, Appeals court orders Sol-Gen

THE COURT of Appeals has directed the Solicitor General's office to submit its comment on a petition from the Energy Regulatory Commission asking the appellate court to reverse its controversial decision nullifying the Manila Electric Co.'s application to increase and unbundle its rates.

In its petition, the ERC claimed that the OSG had erroneously told the CA that the regulatory agency did not ask for an audit of Meralco's books before approving the utility's hike application.

The court said it would like the OSG's comment before it acts on the ERC's petition, submitted last Monday, asking the CA to set aside its July ruling annulling the ERC's approval of the Meralco's rate increase application and ordering the Commission on Audit look into the books, records and accounts of Meralco.

Arguing through its counsel Saturnino Juan, the ERC said it did order the COA to look into Meralco's records and accounts.

But Juan also argued that under the law, a COA audit was not a prerequisite for the approval of a rate application.

Juan said ERC chair Fe Barin on Feb. 20, 2002, had asked the COA to look into Meralco's records and four COA auditors later conducted an audit of the power utility's books. ERC was informed of the results on June 24, 2002.

He said the ERC strictly followed the prescribed process before approving the Meralco rate hike petition.

In May 2003, the ERC approved an increase of 8.65 centavos per kilowatt hour in Meralco's distribution rate and 8.35 per kWh in its generation and transmission rate for a total increase of 17 centavos per kWh. Meralco began charging the increased rates in June 2003. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Local artists to screen alien acts

FOREIGN artists will now be required to get the approval of local singers before they are given work permits by the Bureau of Immigration.

A memorandum of agreement to that effect was signed Tuesday by Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez and officers of the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM) and the Asosasyon ng Musikong Pilipino Inc. (AMP) on Tuesday.

The agreement came after local artists complained they were losing income due to the influx of foreign artists into the country.

"This means that, henceforth, we will not approve any application for a work permit if it was not endorsed by the OPM and the APM," Fernandez said in a statement.

Under the guidelines, OPM and AMP will evaluate the applications for work permits of all producers who intend to bring in foreign entertainers.

After evaluating the nature of the musical event, the OPM and AMP will issue separate endorsements to the BI before the application for work permit is approved. *Martin P. Marfil*

Quake rocks Bicol region

A MODERATE earthquake hit the Bicol region yesterday afternoon, with the strongest impact measured at Intensity 5 in Virac, Catanduanes.

The 2:35 p.m. temblor was tectonic in origin, meaning it was fault-related, and traced to a movement in an offshore fault line northeast of Catanduanes, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. It had a magnitude of 3.8.

No damage

The quake was also felt at Intensity 4 in the cities of Legaspi, Irosin, Naga and Sorsogon; Intensity 3 in Daet, Camarines Norte; and Intensity 2 in Guinayangan, Quezon, Phivolcs added.

No damage or aftershocks were reported in the area as of early last night.

Shallow

The Phivolcs Lignon Hill Observatory Center in Daraga, Albay, reported that the quake was located at 14.03 degrees north and 124.20 degrees east, 49 km north and three degrees west of Virac town, with 16 km depth of focus, which the agency said was shallow.

Marie Francisco of the Catanduanes governor's office said the quake terrified provincial capitol employees who rushed outside the building. *Volt Contreras; Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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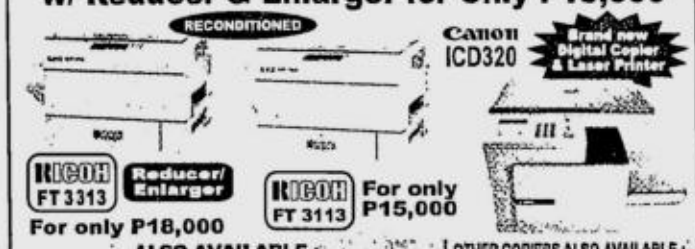

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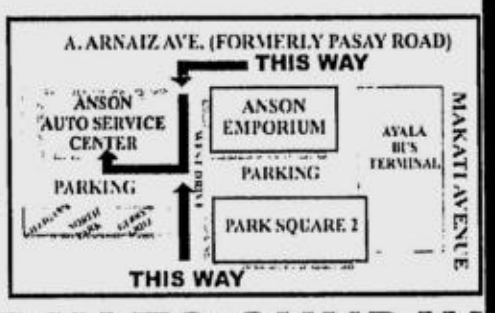

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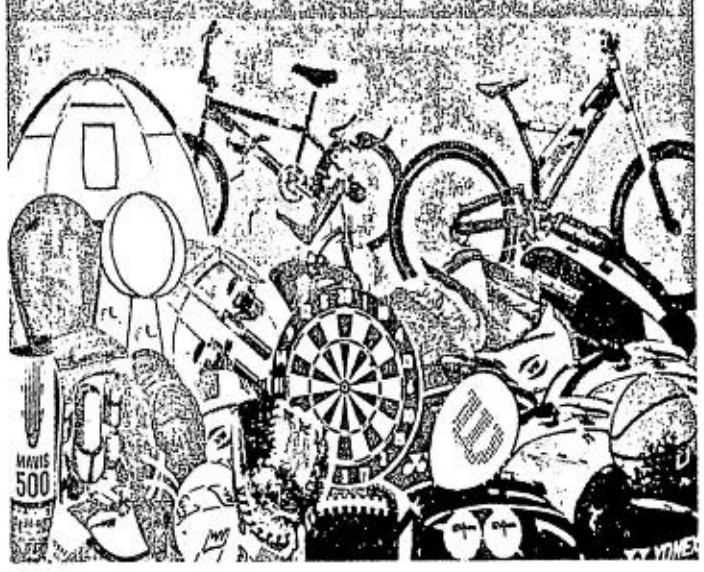

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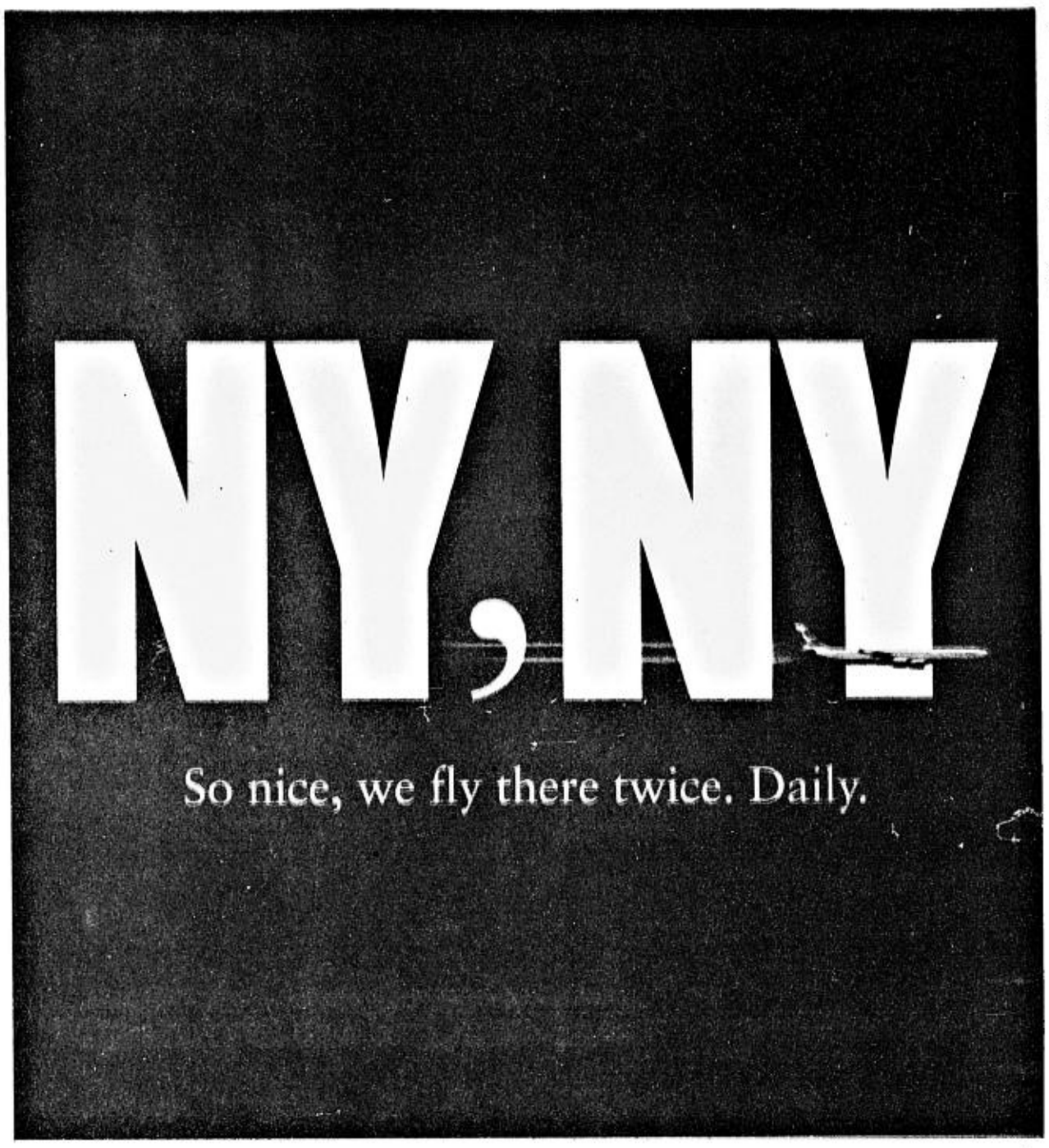

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Pinoy boxer whips Tajik, gives RP reason to hope

From page A1

Aside from the taekwondo jins, two other Filipinos have yet to see action. They are Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito in the women's long jump on Aug. 25 and Eduardo Buenavista in the men's marathon on Aug. 29, the final day of competition.

On Friday, Miguel Mendoza ends a modest campaign by Philippine swimmers when he jumps into the Olympic Aquatic Center pool for his favorite 1,500-meter freestyle. Judging from his comfortable warmup swim in the 400-m freestyle, the only Filipino swimmer here with Olympic experience is confident he would break his Olympic qualifying time and personal record of 15 minutes and 49.55 seconds.

Tough fight

Tañamor's hard-earned victory lined him up for a tough fight against South Korea's Hong Moo-won, who stopped a badly outclassed Lalaina Rabenarivo of Madagascar in the third round of an earlier fight. The referee stopped the contest when Hong went ahead, 30-10, under the scoring system. Under boxing rules, a fighter ahead by 20 points is declared an automatic winner.

The second-round encounter with the impressive Korean is scheduled for 9 p.m. Saturday (2 a.m. Sunday in Manila).

The winner of that fight will go up against the victor of the featured clash of favorites in the 48-kg division—Yan Barthelemy Varela of Cuba and Suban Pannon of Thailand.

Both fighters were impressive in their first-round victories—Barthelemy stopping Miguel Angel Miranda Guerra of Venezuela in the third round under the 20-point RSC rule and Pannon outclassing Bulgaria's Salim Salimov, 26-14.

Morale-boosting

Tañamor, silver medalist in the 2002 Asian Games, said he was jittery when he entered the boxing hall for his debut on the Olympic stage. A small but noisy group representing a sizable Filipino community in Athens cheered Tañamor as he entered the arena.

"'He was very anxious," said Eric Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission.

With his flag-waving countrymen chanting "PHI-LI-PPINES," Tañamor started tentatively against his fellow left-hander. But he quickly got his bearings against the 19-year-old Dostiev.

Fearsome aggressor

Fighting flat-footed and weaving left and right, Tañamor was a fearsome aggressor as he stalked Dostiev across the ring, scoring two points on a right straight followed up by a left hook. The Tajik quickly scored back with two points in succession, but a left and a right gave the initiative back to the Filipino at 4-2.

The round ended with the Filipino ahead, 5-3.

Tañamor delivered a left hook and took a 7-5 lead midway through the second round, but he walked into a wicked left uppercut from the counterpunching Dostiev. The Filipino scored back with a right straight, but Dostiev scored the last two points of the round after a right straight and a left-right-left combination.

Tañamor led precariously at 8-7 halfway through the fight, and early in the third round, Dostiev waded in to tie the score at 8-8, pushing the Filipino against the ropes near the neutral corner with his left elbow.

But Tañamor, though starting to back up, was unfazed. After a roundhouse right missed wildly, he scored with a left to stay on top.

Backpedalling, he again scored with a right hook and a left.

Last hurrah

Dostiev, bloodied but unbowed and undaunted, counterattacked, scoring the last two points of the round, including a right that cut the Filipino's lead to 12-11 at the end of Round 3.

That last point proved to be Dostiev's last hurráh as Tañamor finally stamped his class on his opponent in the fourth and final round, virtually scoring at will as he danced away from his charging opponent.

He counterpunched and scored repeatedly with a right, including one midway through the final minute that snapped Dostiev's head back.

Aware that he had finally piled up enough points to assure himself of victory, Tañamor stayed out of harm's way, counterpunching only when needed to the utter frustration of his opponent.

The final exchange came when Tañamor scored with another right and Dostiev landed his first and only point in the round as the bell sounded ending the fight.

As referee Somsak Seanglai of Thailand raised Tañamor's hand, the small Filipino crowd drowned the boxing hall with cheers and jubilation.

Joining the applause were Filipino sports officials led by Buhain, Lopez, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, chef de mission Steve Hontiveros and shooting team leader Art Macapagal.

Quick-moving target

Like the previous Filipino boxers who saw action, Tañamor refused to be interviewed after the fight. But he was quoted by Lopez as saying he had a hard time with his opponent because he was a quick-moving target.

"*Malikot, makilos* (He was quick. He moved fast)," Lopez quoted Tañamor as saying.

Lopez said Tañamor had a hard time finding his mark because Dostiev was moving counterclockwise.

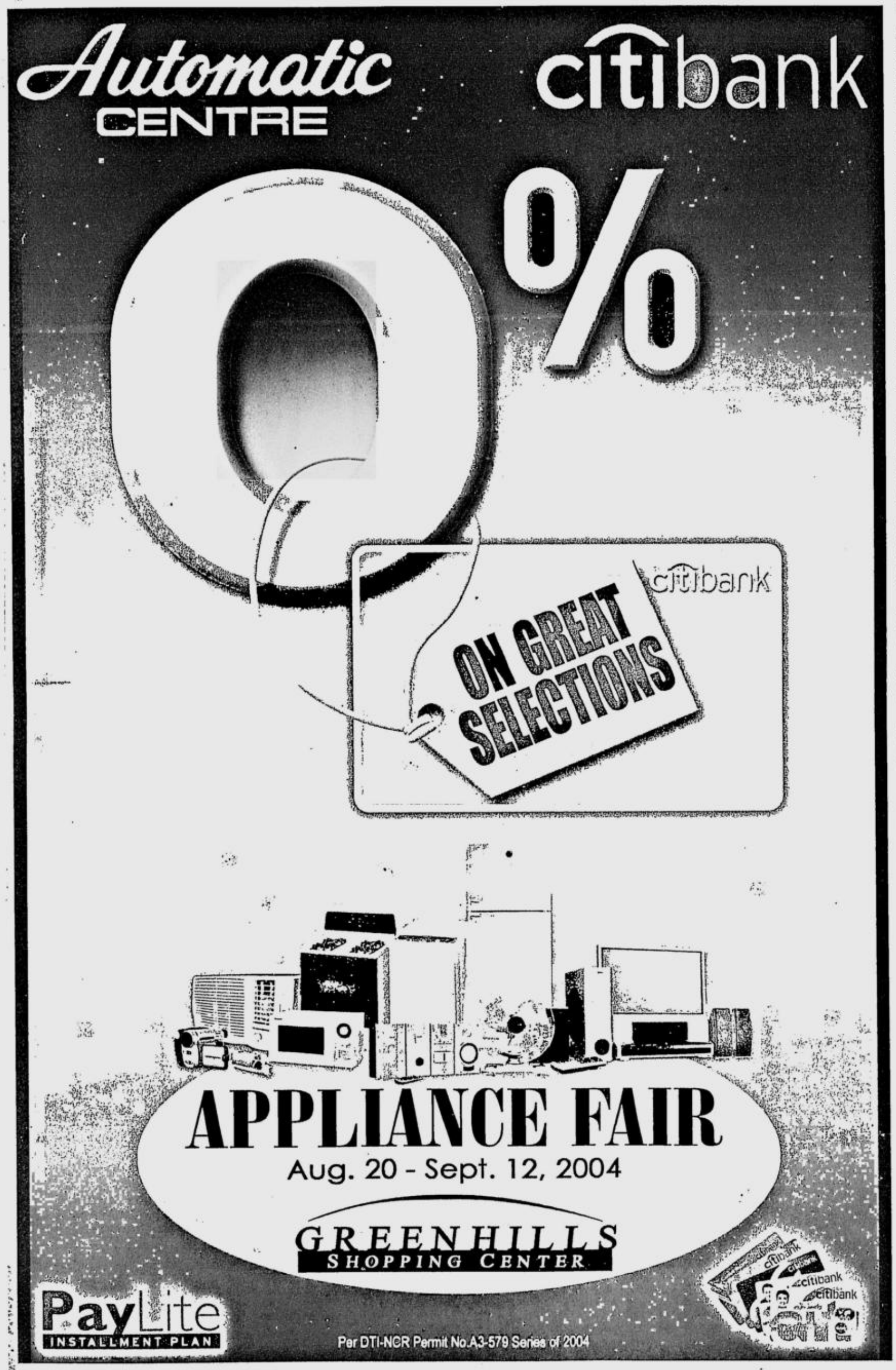
Tañamor is the only other Filipino fighter to survive the first round of the boxing eliminations. The first, light welterweight Romeo Brin, was to fight Thailand's Manus Boonjumnong in the second round late Thursday night (early Friday morning in Manila).

Middleweight Christopher Camat was the first to go, losing to the favored Gaydarbek Gaydarbekov of Russia on Saturday. Then flyweight Violito Payla followed him to the sidelines, going down to Uzbekistan's Tulashboy Doniyorov on Tuesday.

Boxing only hope

Boxing is the only event where the Filipinos have been nursing realistic chances of winning the first ever gold medal for the Philippines in 80 years in the Olympic movement.

Of the nine medals won by the Philippines since 1924, boxers have won five, including the two silvers of Anthony Villanueva in 1964 in Tokyo and Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco in 1996 in Atlanta.



Couple in gov't dismissed after failing lifestyle check

By Armand N. Nocum

HERE'S a first in the government lifestyle check program.

A couple—who both hold ranking positions in government—have been ordered dismissed from the service for failing the administration's lifestyle check program.

Ordered fired by President Macapagal-Arroyo were Sumail Sekak and his wife Kunesa, regional directors of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, respectively, in Region XII.

The two were recommended for dismissal by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission for failing to declare in their joint statement of assets and liabilities (SAL) their ownership of properties in Cotabato City and Maguindanao.

The dismissal order was affirmed by the Palace in a 12-page resolution signed by Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Waldo Q. Flores in behalf of the President.

"This is a major victory in the sense that a husband and wife team, high ranking officials at that, has failed the lifestyle check program started by the President only last year," Ramon Elmer Gatchalian, legal and research director of the PAGC told the INQUIRER.

But Gatchalian said the order was not final because the two could file a motion for reconsideration as guaranteed under the law.

"The resolution dismissing them, therefore, is not yet final and executory," he said.

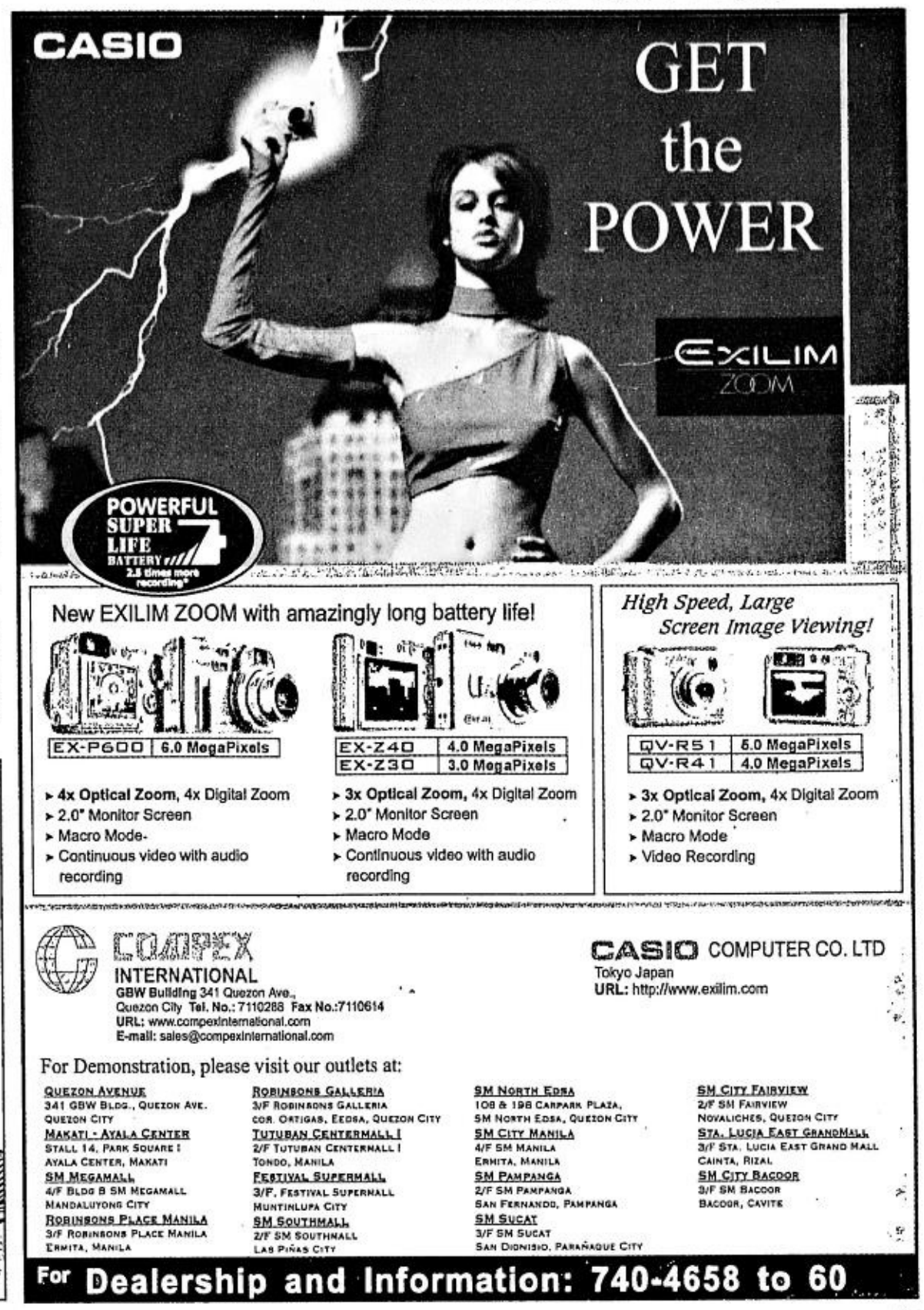
The Sekak couple were accused of failing to declare in their joint 2002 SAL their acquisition of three properties in 1991, four parcels of land in 1997 and two parcels of land in 1988 and 1998.

To cover up their ownership of the properties, the couple allegedly placed them under the general classification of "apartment" and "housing," without listing their titles and other information.

In their defense, the couple said they placed the properties under such a classification since some of these had been mortgaged to the GSIS and the Land Bank of the Philippines.

But the PAGC found the argument "untenable."

"If the respondents had no intention of misdeclaring the entries contained in their SAL, they could have easily indicated thereon that the apartment had been erected on three parcels of land that they owned," the PAGC said.



THE WHOLE world keeps watch as the Aguirre twins continue to recover at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore in the Bronx, New York. Shown here is Carl.
AFP/MONTEFIORE MEDICAL CENTER

Aguirre twin treated for infection

From page A1

cording to Dr. David Staffenberg, plastic surgeon.

Fluid under skin

Staffenberg said some fluid had developed under the skin flaps that were placed over the boy's skull after the separation surgery. This was not uncommon after craniofacial surgical procedures, he added.

Carl and his brother Clarence, connected at their heads, were separated during a complicated 17-hour operation on Aug. 4. It was the last in a series of four procedures conducted over 10 months. The twins arrived in New York in August last year.

Montefiore spokesperson Linda McGrath said Carl was being given antibiotics for the "mild" urinary tract infection.

Long road ahead

Doctors earlier expressed amazement at the boys' "lightning-speed" recovery.

But Staffenberg said the doctors still needed to keep a close watch. "There is a long road of wound healing ahead." *AP*

Tiniest baby ever now 14-year-old achiever

From page A1

miracle baby, saying instead that parents and doctors needed to think carefully about "saving" extremely small and premature babies.

Madeline was born in 1989 weighing only 280 grams (nine ounces)—less than a can of soda—and was less than 25 cm (10 inches) long. But she developed almost normally, with average mental development, a few eye problems and asthma.

She is short for her age, just 136.5 cm tall (4 1/2 feet tall), but physically normal. She has a 3.7 grade average out of a possible 4.0 and plays the violin, the doctors reported in this week's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

"People have got to be very careful how they interpret this," said Dr. Jonathan Muraskas of Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois, who helped deliver Madeline.

"People may say 'I had a 972-gram (two-pound) baby that didn't make it'," Muraskas said in a telephone interview—adding parents could be disappointed or even sue.

Madeline was born with better odds than most premature babies, he added.

"I think the take-home points are that boys are wimps when premature. Girls do so much better than boys. And Madeline was 27 weeks. I think gestational age is critical."

At 27 weeks, Madeline was 13 weeks premature—not unusual these days. She was so tiny because her mother had pre-eclampsia, a condition that causes blood pressure to rise enough to starve the developing fetus of nutrients and threaten the mother's life.

Madeline was delivered by Caesarian section. "To our knowledge, her birth weight remains the lowest in the world literature," Muraskas and colleagues wrote.

Premature girls do better

"We knew that the baby was going to be small but we also knew she was almost 27 weeks," Muraskas said. "Madeline came out crying and she peed on me, too. But I didn't expect a baby that small."

At nine ounces, Madeline weighed much less than a canned drink. She spent four months in the hospital, her first month on a ventilator to help her breathe.

Her eyes were damaged but treatment now has given her perfect vision, according to Muraskas.

As a girl, she had a much better chance of survival than a boy, for reasons that are not understood. But a study published earlier this month showed that premature boys suffered more brain damage than premature girls.

Muraskas said he was worried by a growing trend to try to save babies that are born far, far too early.

Not miracle workers

"We are not miracle workers," Muraskas said. "The survival rate has about peaked."

He said parents and hospital workers needed to think about the odds.

"A baby today born at 23 weeks, that's about the lowest limit of viability, that translates to about a one-pound (500 grams) baby. The survival rate is about 5 percent to 10 percent," Muraskas said.

WEIGHING just 9.9 ounces, Madeline Mann is shown after her birth in June 1989. AP

"The chances of a developmental handicap, like blindness, deafness and cerebral palsy, is at least 90 percent."

Even older premature babies can have severe health problems. "We put band aids on these babies' little problems but we have to step back and ask what is the quality of life for little babies?"

Does this make sense?

Dr. Jerold Lucey, the editor of the journal Pediatrics, agreed in a recent commentary.

Tiny babies are born and given drugs, are resuscitated violently and stuck onto ventilators.

"Does this make sense?" Lucey asked. "We should admit how little we know, explain the present bleak outlook for intact survival."

According to him, parents are now becoming attached to babies doomed to die simply because they can be kept alive for a while in the neonatal intensive care ward. *Reuters*

EXTRAORDINARY: Madeline Mann survived her birth at 27 weeks into her mother's pregnancy to make medical history. She is entering high school next week as an honors student who also plays the violin.
AP/NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Iraq gov't says offensive against Najaf imminent

NAJAF, Iraq—US tanks tightened their ring around Shiite militia leader Moqtada Sadr's base in a sacred shrine in Najaf Thursday as an Iraqi government minister threatened an offensive against his forces "within hours."

"The Iraqi government has laid down conditions that Moqtada Sadr must promise in a press conference not to resort to violence in the future and that the Mehdi Army is to be dissolved," Minister of State Kassem Daoud told a news conference in Najaf.

The fiery cleric must also submit names of all people tried by his religious courts and release all detainees, including Iraqi police, soldiers and national guardsmen, "otherwise the coming hours will be decisive," he added.

"We have been preparing for a military offensive for five days to put an end to this crisis," the minister said.

Intermittent fighting continued Thursday in the historic heart of the holy city, one day after a spokesperson said Sadr had accepted conditions laid down at a national conference, namely to disarm, leave the Imam Ali shrine and join the political process.

"Really actions speak louder than words. We've made our position very clear that he must leave the shrine and dissolve his Army, but still the situation is unchanged," interior ministry spokesperson Sabah Kadhim said.

Confirming on Wednesday that the cleric had "accepted all the conditions extended to him," Sheikh Ahmed al-Shaibani, however, insisted on a ceasefire for the steps to be implemented.

But there was little evidence of that on the ground Thursday as Sadr's Mehdi Army fired at US tanks parked just 200 meters away from the mausoleum, effectively trapping Sadr's men in one of the holiest shrines in Shiite Islam.

"We've had these kind of tricks before and the Iraqi people will not be deceived... If he says he will leave, he should just leave," Kadhim said.

In the United States, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice pressed home the same rhetoric in an interview with CNN television.

"Nobody is taking Sadr at his word. He's someone from whom you have to see action. He said lots of words before. He has never followed through on them.

"I don't think you're going to see an Iraqi government that's going to take his word... He has to be dealt with and I'm quite certain he will be," she said.

A US marine and at least 12 Iraqis were killed during fierce fighting between Sadr's militia and US troops on Wednesday, medics and the military said. *AFP*

US intelligence in crisis, says ex-arms inspector

WASHINGTON—Former arms inspector David Kay on Wednesday offered a bleak assessment of the state of US intelligence, saying that even naming an intelligence czar was not likely to fix the problems unless other significant reforms are undertaken.

Kay, who resigned in January as head of the Iraq Survey Group tasked with hunting down Baghdad's alleged weapons of mass destruction program, said the US intelligence network was in a full-blown crisis, and pointed to the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks and the flawed intelligence on Iraq's weapons program as evidence.

"The US intelligence community is in a crisis, and this crisis is so grave that it weakens an essential underpinning of both our diplomatic and our national military security capabilities and their ability to support US national interests," Kay said at a hearing of the Senate intelligence committee.

"Remedying this crisis cannot be simply achieved by naming a National Intelligence Director. What is necessary is vision, and an unswerving commitment to serving the nation beyond the political and policy interests of any one particular administration," he said.

He made his remarks at one of nearly two dozen separate congressional hearings to be held in August to review last month's findings by the independent Sept. 11 Commission into intelligence lapses that allowed the attacks to be carried out.

Lawmakers are meeting this month to consider proposals to overhaul the US intelligence system, including the possible creation of a national coordinator of US intelligence. *AFP*

Sony chair urges Japan to open doors to world

CANBERRA—The chair of electronics giant Sony Corp. on Thursday urged the Japanese government to throw open its doors to mass immigration, saying the country's economic prosperity depended on it.

"Globalization, the IT revolution and the rapid aging of society are demanding that the Japanese open up their country to the world and reform their closed and narrow community oriented economic systems," said Iwao Nakatani, who has been a key economic adviser to two Japanese prime ministers.

Japan's falling birth rate threatened to undermine the country's economic base, and would eventually force the government to reverse its conservative immigration policy, Nakatani said in a speech at the Australian National University where he was presented with an honorary doctorate of law.

Japan's birthrate fell to a record low of 1.29 last year, the government said in June, renewing fears about the country's ability to support its graying population in coming decades and sustain its economic prosperity as its labor force shrinks. *AP*

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Iran says it may launch preemptive strike against US forces in region

DOHA—Iranian Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani warned Wednesday that Iran might launch a preemptive strike against US forces in the region to prevent an attack on its nuclear facilities.

"We will not sit (with arms folded) to wait for what others will do to us. Some military commanders in Iran are convinced that preventive operations which the Americans talk about are not their monopoly," Sham-khani told Al-Jazeera TV when asked if Iran would respond to an American attack on its nuclear facilities.

"America is not the only one present in the region. We are also present, from Khost to Kandahar in Afghanistan; we are present in the Gulf and we can be present in Iraq," said Shamkhani, speaking in Farsi to the Arabic-language news channel through an interpreter.

"The US military presence (in Iraq) will not become an element of strength (for Washington) at our expense. The opposite is true, because their forces would turn into a hostage" in Iranian hands in the event of an attack, he said.

Shamkhani, who was asked about the possibility of an American or Israeli strike against Iran's atomic power plant in Bushehr, added: "We will consider any strike against our nuclear installations as an attack on Iran as a whole, and we will retaliate with all our strength.

"Where Israel is concerned, we have no doubt that it is an evil entity, and it will not be able to launch any military operation without an American green light. You cannot separate the two." *AFP*

Aziz to become Palestinian premier

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz easily won a seat in parliament, clearing the way for him to take over as prime minister next week, officials said on Thursday.

The former Citibank executive bagged 76,161 votes against 29,443 for his main opponent in Attock district of central Punjab province, where he narrowly survived a suicide bombing on July 30, an Election Commission official said.

His driver and eight others were killed in the attack that officials have linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, which is bent on deposing President Pervez Musharraf for his support for the US-led war on terror.

Aziz, 55, who Musharraf picked to be prime minister in June after the abrupt resignation of the incumbent, also trounced his opponent in a second by-election in Tharparkar in Sindh province by securing 152,102 votes against the rival's 10,732.

"I will try my level best to improve the life of country's common man and make efforts to maintain peace and harmony in the country," the official APP news agency quoted Aziz as saying. *Reuters*

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GLS Sport M/T (Dsl)	805,000	80,750	33,904	24,294	19,543	17,187	15,332
GLS Sport A/T (Gas)	848,000	107,200	35,716	25,592	20,587	18,105	16,151
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4,000 corrupt Chinese officials absconded with $50B, say media

BEIJING—About 4,000 corrupt Chinese officials have fled overseas in the past two decades taking a staggering $50 billion with them, official media reported Thursday.

Much of the money has been moved abroad through offshore financing centers, prompting Premier Wen Jiabao to order finance regulators to develop ways to deal with the problem, the Beijing's Evening Legal News said.

Experts said corrupt officials and some private firms were using companies registered in offshore finance centers such as the British Virgin Islands and the Bahamas to illegally transfer funds.

A joint task force is being set up by the central bank, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, the China Banking Regulatory Commission and the China Securities Regulatory Commission to deal with the issue.

China is beset by corruption nationwide and it is consistently cited as one of the top causes of public discontent with the current political system.

While the central government has vowed to clamp down hard on the practices, a steady stream of graft reports in the official media suggests the problem remains serious.

In the latest attempt to combat the problem, China has set up public bank accounts so that corrupt officials can voluntarily return bribes they have pocketed in return for lighter punishment.

Accounts have so far been set up in six provinces and 20 cities, Xinhua news agency said Thursday, without naming the places or giving details about how successful the scheme has been.

The move follows a meeting of 70 experts who looked at ways to prevent graft through laws and amendments of current systems and regulations, said Wang Minggao, head of the research group that made the recommendation.

He said the group also proposed regulations to require government officials to register family possessions and use real names at banks to prevent money laundering.

The suggestions are all aimed at preventing corruption systematically rather than by the sporadic punishment of individuals, said Wang. *AFP*

China 'religious persecution' hit

BEIJING—An American Buddhist group that spent $3 million renovating an 800-year-old temple in rural northern China said on Wednesday that police officers and soldiers took back the temple last week by arresting its spiritual leader and forcibly removing 70 Chinese and a small group of Americans.

Earlier this month, the police arrested eight underground Roman Catholic priests in a northeastern village after a nighttime house-to-house search, according to an American-based foundation that monitors religious persecution in China.

The two unrelated incidents are the latest examples of what appears to be a government crackdown against some religious groups practicing in the countryside. The government allows worship at state-approved sanctuaries, but prohibits "illegal" worship at increasingly popular underground churches.

On Wednesday, officials at the US Embassy consulted with leaders of the Buddhist Foundation of America about the reported takeover of the Dari Rulai Xingyuan temple in Inner Mongolia, an autonomous Chinese region. An embassy spokesperson said that American officials planned to meet with foreign ministry officials about the matter. *New York Times*

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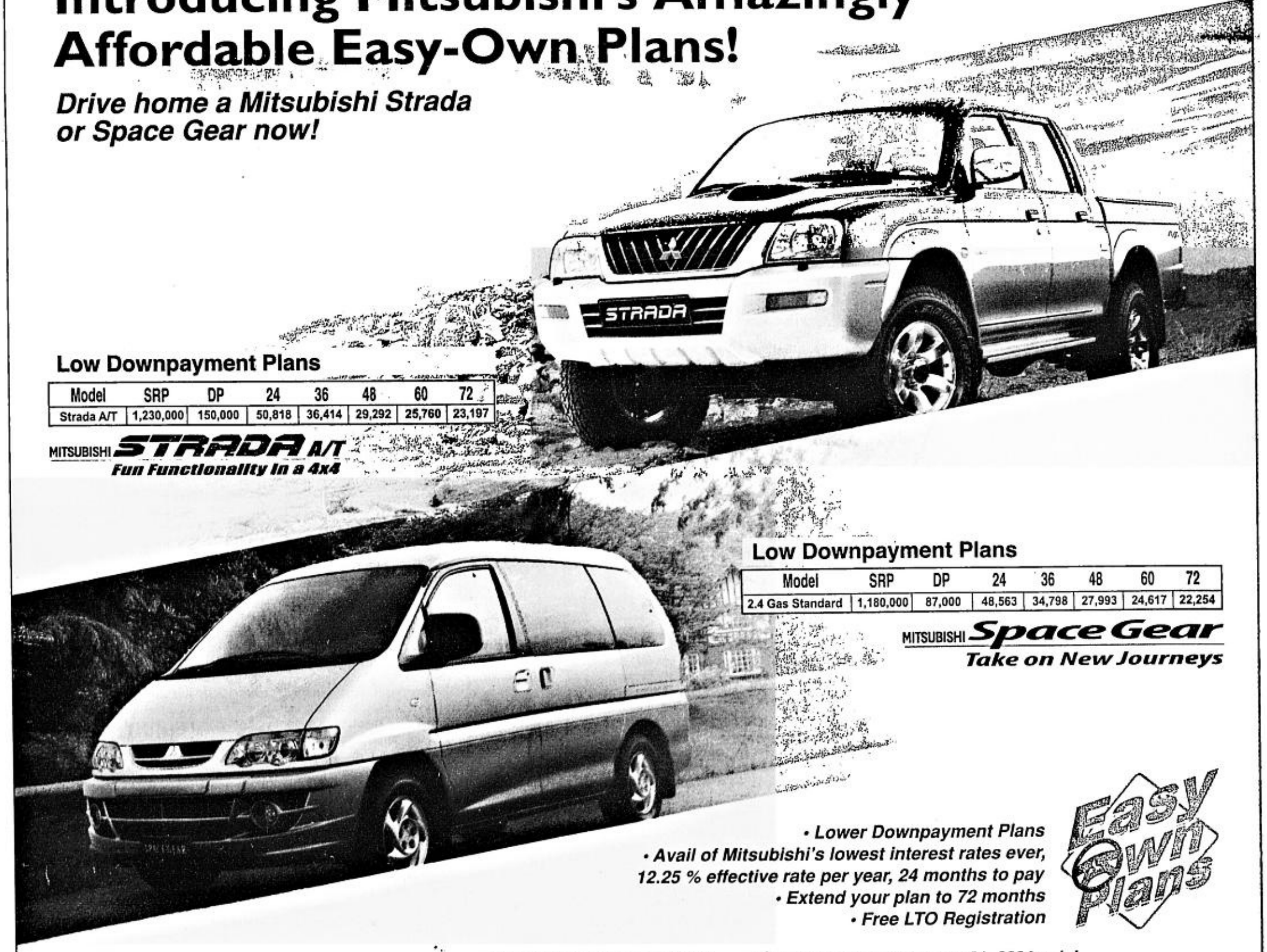

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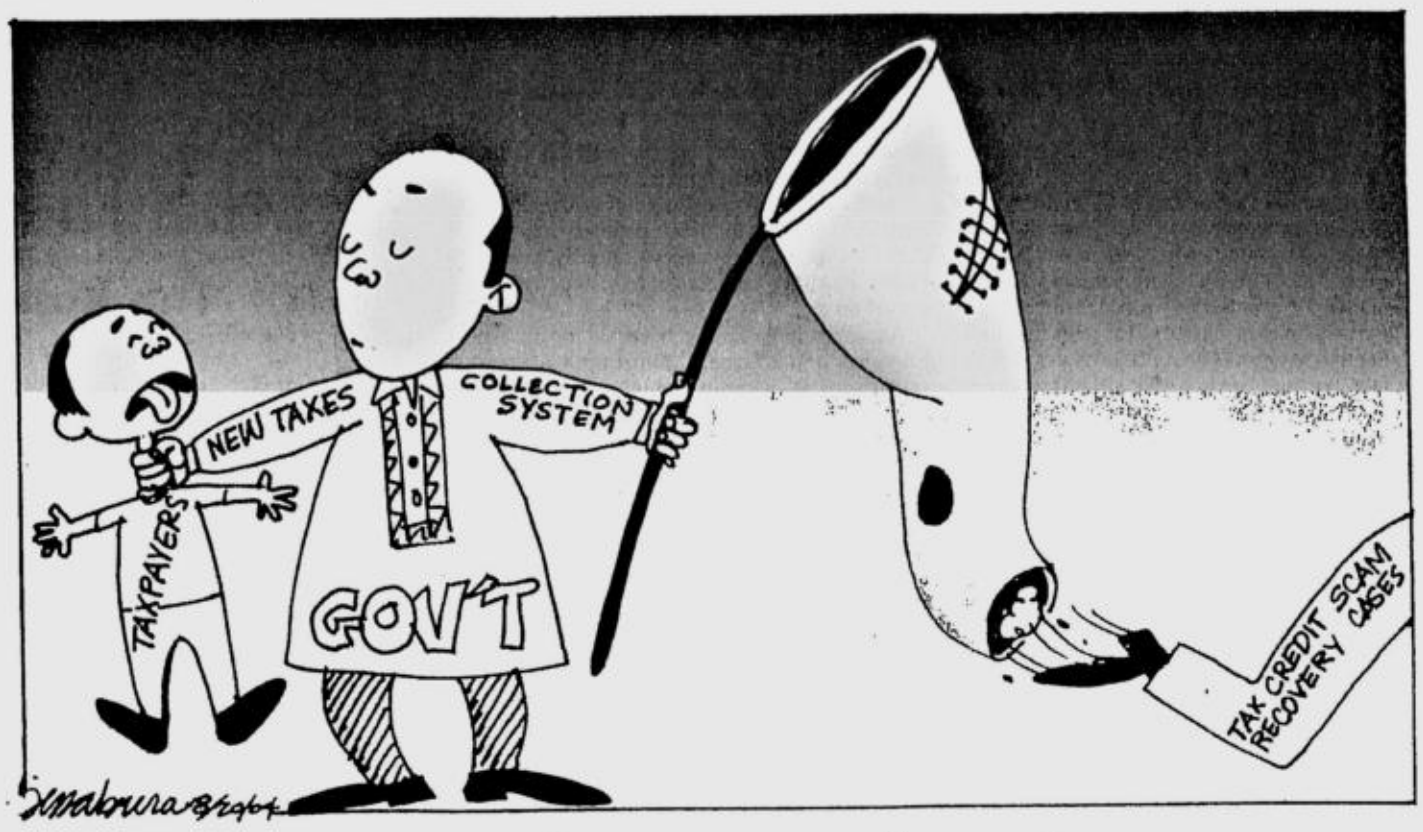

Irredeemable

EDITORIAL

NEW INTERIOR Secretary Angelo Reyes has his work cut out for him. Before everything else, he must straighten up the crooked Philippine National Police. Two recent developments show why this should be foremost in his agenda.

First, the Mandaluyong prosecutor's office has dismissed the criminal charges against Ryan Jaworski, Ron Michael Jaworski, Elton Yap and Mark Yap—all scions of rich families involved in a shootout in Greenhills—for lack of "probable cause." The prosecutor said that the police failed to establish the basic fact that the respondents fired at one another and failed to follow through the leads provided by witnesses.

Second, at the other end of the archipelago, in Zamboanga City, immigration officials have stopped American Jason Ivler, who figured in an accident that killed an official with the rank of undersecretary, from fleeing to Malaysia with the assistance of police officers.

What do the two incidents reveal? They tend to confirm the oft-repeated charge that public safety and order is a near-hopeless case in the Philippines because of the irredeemability of the Philippine National Police (PNP). They show that if the police are not letting criminals get away with their crime through legal means (Jaworski and Yap case), they let them get away through the back door (the Ivler incident). A police force that conforms too much to the movie cliché of arriving too late at the scene of the crime, particularly if the victims are the poor, seems too ready and willing to forestall the crime, nay, clean up the crime, if those involved are the rich.

In the Jaworski-Yap case, the sloppy police work that resulted in the dismissal of the case—right at the prosecutorial, investigative level!—smells suspiciously like a whitewash. Any or all of the cases filed against those who took part in the shootout—alarm and scandal, illegal discharge of firearm, and malicious mischief—require standard, peremptory evidence. The shock is that the police couldn't come up with anything!

The respondents didn't seem to have caused public alarm and scandal because, for all intents and purposes, there was no shootout. And if there had been one, the police failed to establish the identities of the perpetrators because they didn't interrogate the shooters. They said they could not because the suspects refused. This is totally egregious because the Commission on Human Rights and the courts are filled with confessions of poor people who had to own crimes forced on them by some policemen who seem to have had acquired training from Hitler's police. But because the suspects carry names of social or economic prominence, it seems the police could not force on them their methods, even the peremptory and the merely legal.

Stumped on interviewing the suspects, the police could have traced the spent shells and ammunition to the guns and their owners. But lo and behold, they could not for one reason or another. Perhaps their ballistics laboratory had suddenly conked out, and their ballistics experts had miraculously gone on leave en masse. Perhaps none of the more than 80 bullets fired and recovered on the spot was suddenly available; they may have vanished into thin air! So there was no case of illegal discharge because there was no discharge and there were no firearms!

When the police aren't escorting criminals out of the court dockets, they are escorting them out of the country. In the Ivler case, these police escorts were Supt. Antonio Gumiran, Senior Insp. Jeff Briones Uy and several others. Ivler now has the enviable reputation of having been involved in a road accident that killed Undersecretary Nestor Ponce and having police escorts helping him out of the mess. The PNP does not even shirk at assisting someone evading justice and responsibility over an incident that killed a Malacañang functionary and a former lawmaker at that (Ponce used to be a Manila congressman)!

But what is really worrisome is that Gumiran and his companions are from the Directorate of Operations of Camp Crame. The fact that police officers from the PNP headquarters are aiding criminals on the run should show that rogue cops have penetrated the nerve center of anticrime operations. The PNP officialdom has been turned against itself. Reyes must act quickly and forcefully to reverse this trend.

Gov't must first recover looted taxes

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE CABINET revamp was a game of musical chairs. The same people were just moved around. It was the old spoils system at work. Those who helped President Macapagal-Arroyo get elected by hook or by crook got the choicest rewards, like Rep. Ace Durano of Cebu, the new tourism secretary, and former Rep. Raul Gonzalez of Iloilo, the new justice secretary.

The President got an unusually high number of votes in Cebu, overtaking all the vote margins of Fernando Poe Jr. in other provinces, which is why she is showering Cebu with all sorts of rewards. She may even make Danao, Durano's home city, a special economic zone for the manufacture of guns. Gonzalez, on the other hand, as the House presiding officer of the joint Senate-House panel that canvassed the presidential and vice presidential certificates of canvass, prevented the opposition from going down to the election returns to verify the veracity of the provincial CoCs.

GMA must have been so scared of losing, and so overjoyed when she won, that she is going overboard in distributing spoils to all those who helped her.

* * *

I think the government has no moral right to impose new taxes until it has collected the P5.3 billion lost in the tax credit scam and sent the perpetrators to jail. Or recovered the billions more in taxes already collected by Bureau of Internal Revenue personnel but deposited in their private bank accounts and later withdrawn. These amounts alone already equal the expected revenue from the new taxes.

How can you expect people to pay more when taxes already collected are stolen by the tax collectors themselves? Why would taxpayers part with their hard-earned money when the government refunds companies that didn't pay taxes at all?

Where in the world have you seen more than half of 60 tax fraud cases filed dismissed because of the government's "failure to prosecute"?

I think the first mistake in the prosecution of the tax credit fraud cases committed under the One Stop Shop Interagency Tax Credit and Drawback Center (OSS) was to leave the job to the Bureau of Customs. In the BoC, anything is possible if the price is right. Here, compromise is the name of the game: one for you, one for me.

* * *

I have written several times in the past about this same tax credit scam when investigators told me that some officials and government agencies were not enthusiastic about going after the culprits. They have been proven right.

One reason is probably that the scam could not have been perpetrated without the cooperation of some officials of the Department of Finance. If you put the suspect businessmen on the dock, they may sing like canaries and name their partners in government.

The tax credit system originally had a good purpose. To encourage exports, companies importing materials for processing into export products and paying import duties and taxes on them are given tax refunds after they have exported their products. Instead of getting the refunds in cash, they are given tax credit certificates issued by the OSS, which they can use to pay future taxes.

The big mistake was in allowing the exporters to sell the tax credit certificates (TCCs) to third parties which can use them to pay their own taxes. Smart operators saw this as an opportunity to make oodles of money easily. They manufactured import documents which they presented to the OSS to ask for tax refunds. They made fictitious companies that also asked for tax refunds. The OSS personnel were very cooperative. Thus, our government was giving tax refunds to those who never paid taxes at all.

The operators then turned around and sold these TCCs to big taxpayers like oil companies which then used them to pay their own taxes. The big taxpayers were cooperative because the TCCs were sold to them at a 30-percent discount. By using the TCCs, the big taxpayers saved 30 percent on their tax payments. Hence the government lost a second time: it wasn't able to collect all the taxes due from these big taxpayers.

* * *

In the case of the BIR, the scam was made possible because taxes were paid to the BIR through banks instead of directly to it. The intention was to prevent BIR personnel from handling the money and stealing them.

But smart operators found another loophole. Because the banks took several days to remit their collections to the BIR, it gave the operators a window to pull off the scam which, by the way, cannot be accomplished without the cooperation of some bank employees. When a check, payable to the BIR, is paid through the bank, it is deposited in the BIR's account. But the operators have a private account similar to the BIR account. Before clearing, the check is diverted to this private account (this is where the connivance of bank personnel is needed). After clearing, the amount is withdrawn and the account closed. By the time the scam is discovered, the hundreds of millions of pesos in taxes already disappeared.

Some BIR employees, but no bank employee, have been charged but after years of trial, only one has been convicted. The trial of the others have been stalled because the accused have disappeared. No doubt they are now abroad enjoying their loot. As for the millions of pesos in taxes lost, not one peso has been recovered.

With this record, how can the government have the face to ask honest taxpayers to pay more? How can it discourage others from doing the same thing? Instead, it tells them that they can be rich illegally and get away with it.

Is the Filipino worth repeatedly dying for?

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

TOMORROW we mark the 21st anniversary of the 21st of August 1983 when Ninoy Aquino was murdered upon his return from exile, and by his blood nourished Philippine democracy.

Ninoy was a stranger to my generation of Filipino student activists. He was already in jail by the time I entered college, out of sight and out of mind for a whole nation which had just bartered its freedoms for the false security that martial law offered.

I saw him on TV only once, during the only time he was allowed access to media by the Marcos-controlled press. That was when Ronnie Nathanielsz interviewed him, with Ronnie dripping with scorn and derision, during the 1978 election for the Interim Batasang Pambansa, when Ninoy's Laban party ran against Imelda's line-up (which, not surprisingly, Imelda won by an unconvincing landslide). I watched the interview with other UP students, none of us familiar with Ninoy, yet all of us cheering each time he scored. He parried every blow, every charge, then went on the offensive, obviously having the time of his life. Had I not known that he had been imprisoned for six years already, I could not have imagined that the interviewee was actually a prisoner and that his interviewers were there at his jailor's bidding. Ninoy seemed to be having too much fun, his spirit unbroken by long stretches of solitary confinement and the constant threat of death by firing squad.

Ninoy was more than just a stranger to the activist movement of that time. He was in fact pictured as part of the political elite just temporarily out of power and waiting for his turn at the till. Indeed the campus Left at best was lukewarm about his return; the Philippine Collegian in fact came out with a scathingly unsympathetic editorial timed for Ninoy's return, but which awkwardly came out the day after his murder. Which only showed that the Left and its cohorts were so out of touch with the heart of the Filipino.

I was surprised by my own response to Ninoy's death. At first I refused to believe the news, and then having confirmed it, I was stunned, stone-silent stunned. The next day, my girlfriend and I took time out from our bar review and went to Ninoy's home on Times Street to pay our respects.

It was a season of surprises. First, I invited some usually vocal activist friends to join the trek to Times Street but they all found so many excuses not to go, the public braggadocio thinned to effete whimpering. Then, at Ninoy's home, I found a long line of people queuing up at the gate, not the usual activist types, not the deliberately scruffy kids going out of their way to look *masa*, or the men and women of the cloth who had stood witness to the signs of the times. No, they were neat, uniformed employees, apparently just off from work, and quietly paying homage to a man whose dreams they barely knew but whose death now convinced them to believe. A few days later, we joined the funeral march, and walked in the rain with millions of other Filipinos.

Until Ninoy's death, a rally of 300 would have been a successful "protest action." It took the "willing sacrifice of the innocent" to embolden the millions who showed up in that outpouring of outrage, anger and belated love and admiration for a fallen hero.

Right after Ninoy's death, we were starved for news, and we turned to photocopies of foreign news reports. (An enterprising law student at that time collected all these news clippings, Xeroxed and sold them; he now heads a hugely successful business providing copying services and equipment!). Today I do not know how to describe to my students what it meant to have no press freedom, for a whole nation to know that something big happened, but which the press barely acknowledged, a historical equivalent of "That Of Which We Cannot Speak" in the movie "The Village." How can I tell kids who grew up with PlayStations and Gameboys, who can't live without their cell phones, who download their homework from computers, who via the Internet can play chess against someone in, say, South Africa that the Xerox machine seemed such a technological marvel, a hi-tech "Up yours" to the dictatorship, so advanced compared to the primitive mimeographing machine? (I wonder how many of today's students will put up with those messy Gestetner stencils that were the staple of every anti-dictatorship propagandist.)

Many in my generation have wondered aloud whether Marcos-type censorship would even be possible today anywhere in the world, when technology seamlessly brings people in touch and blurs national borders. Yet when I visit China and ask students about the Tiananmen massacre of 1989, I get the feeling that that is a topic "Of Which They Cannot Speak." "Yes, that is in the past" is the farthest anyone would acknowledge the fact that millions once gathered at Tiananmen and tanks were sent to run them over, events that were fully played out before CNN and certainly accessible via the Internet.

It is then that I recall how it felt before Ninoy was killed. No, censorship is not about technology. It is about fear. The recent killings of journalists prove once more the brazenness of power. Not for them the sophisticated modes of censorship, of blocking unfriendly websites, or bombarding them with messages, or hacking computer systems and altering the content. No. It is as primitive as killing the messenger if you dislike the message, and causing "the chilling effect" that the Constitution guards against.

Unchill, indeed, Ninoy did to the nation. By his death, a nation found its courage, but one that sadly needs to be replenished time and again with the blood of heroes.

Cabinet not an agent of change

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet appointments announced on Wednesday offered no surprises and sent no signals of radical policy changes. They ended uncertainties that had been going on since her inauguration 40 days ago. The uncertainties concerned mainly her own supporters over how she will cut up the pie of political rewards.

Outsiders, especially from the business community, are now assured that there will be no policy surprises. The economic and fiscal policy agenda have already been clearly outlined in two important policy documents: the 10-point agenda elaborated by the State of the Nation Address and the eight tax measures intended to attack the bloated fiscal deficit.

Together with the Cabinet appointments announced earlier (for the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Department of Agriculture department as well as the retention of the trade secretary and the socio-economic planning secretary), we now have nearly a full picture of the team that will help the President run the country for at least the next three years.

The Cabinet appointments announced on Wednesday represent an amalgamation of political rewards, continuity of technocratic experience and expertise, and recognition of regional claims toward decentralization of authority and autonomy from Manila. All told, the picture we get is of a conservative and cautious presidency, reluctant to undertake audacious initiatives and evasive of contentious issues, such as curbing the potentially explosive population growth.

This Cabinet is unexciting, and does not raise high expectations. It is a profile of the status quo. It is not an agent of change and innovation.

In the new appointments, only half a dozen command attention, as they concern key areas: Alberto Romulo as foreign affairs secretary; Eduardo Ermita as executive secretary; Raul Gonzalez as justice secretary; Avelino Cruz Jr. as defense secretary; Florencio Abad as education secretary; Joseph Ace Durano as tourism secretary; Michael Defensor as environment secretary; Ignacio Bunye as press secretary; and Rigoberto Tiglao as head of the Presidential Management Staff.

Two key issues were settled in the appointments. The first is that an outsider (from the career diplomatic service) is at the helm of foreign affairs: Romulo. The second is that the defense department is back in the hands of a civilian, Avelino Cruz Jr.

The direction of foreign affairs is the domain of the President, especially President Arroyo who belongs to the school of presidential activism in foreign policy. Romulo has diverse experience in both the Senate and the executive department. The main consideration, it seems to me, for his appointment is that he has the full trust of the President, intimately knows her thinking on foreign policy, as well, and is one of the few people in her inner circle who can tell her the bad news. His appointment is not a political reward; Romulo did not play a key role in the 2004 campaign.

Romulo is the latest in the chain of non-career diplomats appointed to foreign affairs. He does not flaunt his nationalist credentials. His appointment should not dishearten the career service, from whose ranks have been recruited outstanding career diplomats, among them Delia Albert and Domingo Siazon.

To the credit of Albert, she did a competent job in handling and cutting the damage from the foreign policy crisis over the withdrawal of the Philippine contingent from Iraq to save truck driver Angelo de la Cruz who had been kidnapped by Iraqi militants. That crisis was the most critical test of Philippine-US relations after the pullout of the US bases in the Philippines in 1992. Albert will be amply rewarded for her services during the crisis. She is likely to be posted to a senior diplomatic position: as ambassador to Germany, one of the most strategic positions in Western Europe on the level of the embassies in Paris and London. Berlin is at the heart of Europe, lying between Eastern Europe and Russia and Western Europe.

The review of RP-US relations—whether they can be restored to the same harmonious level prior to the hostage episode—is the challenge facing Romulo. But his statement that he would be guided by the constitutional mandate which requires "the state to pursue an independent foreign policy" does not say much about his own interpretation of national sovereignty and national interest when it comes into collision with issues such as Philippine support for the US coalition in Iraq.

Cruz at defense department signals the President's confidence that after her election, the defense department can be put back in the hands of civilians. With her legitimacy bolstered by her electoral mandate, she is now less dependent on the military for the survival and stability of her administration.

The appointment of Gonzalez, a lawyer and an experienced legislator, as justice secretary is a recognition of the key role he played in the House in blunting efforts by the opposition to block the proclamation of Ms Arroyo, including the filibuster of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. There is another political factor. Gonzalez is a key political leader in West Visayas, which together with Central Visayas, delivered the more than a million vote margin that overhauled Ms Arroyo's deficits in Luzon and Mindanao.

Gonzalez's problem is to give the justice department credibility and to demonstrate independence from the political interests of the administration.

The dream that is Quezon City

YESTERDAY was President Manuel L. Quezon's birthday, a holiday in the city named after him. Beyond the celebrations, it is a good time to think of what Quezon City is today, and compare it with the original plans.

Quezon City was envisioned as a new capital, which was why so many government offices were built in the area, around what is the Quezon Memorial Circle (or Elliptical Road) today.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

The names of some of the districts and streets help us piece together other parts of the dream that was Quezon City. The different "projects" (Project 1, Project 2 and so on) were actually parts of a government plan to provide affordable housing to its employees. There were even separate areas for the University of the Philippines and for teachers, thus UP Village and Teachers' Village.

Many people are unaware that Quezon City was supposed to be a green city, a garden city. You are reminded about this when you drive around the Roxas district, where streets are named after flowers like Gumamela, Champaca and Cadena de Amor.

I grew up in San Juan, but I do have memories of a greener Quezon City because I had to go there for school. It wasn't just greener but more gentle and genteel. There were no supermalls then, but Cubao was awesome enough with the Araneta Coliseum at the center.

Quezon City today

So what's it like today in Quezon City? Cubao has deteriorated through the years, turning sleazy and seedy although, in fairness, I have to say there have been efforts to upgrade the Farmers' Market and adjoining areas.

The government housing projects have mixed records. If you drive around Roxas district, you'll still get glimpses of what it used to be. One time, I had to walk around looking for an address and was pleasantly distracted by the vegetation, amazed at what was still growing from all sorts of nooks and crevices, especially around the riverbanks: the hardy *bandera Espanola* with all its colors, the occasional bamboo grove, emaciated but still elegant.

Elegant. A bit like some of the people living around. In one of the houses there, I once spent a pleasant afternoon with Mama Raquel, an 87-year-old former public school teacher, a true matriarch, who regaled me, in flawless English, with stories of her youth, of courtship, of teaching several generations of kids while raising seven (or was it eight?) children of her own.

Meeting Mama Raquel reminded me that there were better times for government employees, when their work was well rewarded and they did not have to worry too much about the next meal. It was not a luxurious life, but it must have been a good one, and again, it helped to be secure with a house and lot: mind you, the lots in Quezon City averaged about 100 to 150 square meters each but they were built in a way that maximized space.

Alas, families grow. The small lots were fine for a family, maybe even with seven or eight children, but when those children grew up and had their own families, that strained the resources. Now the homes are often bursting at the seams with people, and government has no resources to provide new housing.

Some of the children of these government employees did flee to America, leaving their parents behind in empty lonely nests, often poorly maintained. But whether there's a child abroad or not, many homes become dilapidated because the families are just too concerned with day-to-day survival, with no budget for repainting or repairs.

Killer highways

Having said all that, I feel these government housing districts aren't too bad. There's still some greenery, and civil community life. And there's at least some stability and security.

Which is more than I can say about the expanded areas of Quezon City, around Diliman and going toward Fairview. Here we have some of the most congested barangays in the country, teeming populations of informal settlers. That's the politically correct term now for "squatters." The barangays are actually mixed with middle- and high-income subdivisions in a state of siege, protected by perimeter gates and security guards from the urban poor colonies around them.

It doesn't help that the Metro Manila Development Authority had to launch its *utak-hanip* (flea-brained) traffic schemes that have converted the Elliptical Road into the Epileptic Circle, and Commonwealth Avenue into a killer highway, with numerous vehicular accidents and deaths. Commonwealth is also becoming notorious for, literally, highway robbery, with so many passengers in buses, FXs, jeeps, and even tricycles being held up.

The Epileptic Circle and Commonwealth Avenue represent everything Quezon City should not be, yet the traffic scheme has been transferred as well to Katipunan Avenue, where residents are not just protesting the crazy U-turn slots but also still trying to keep their trees from being chopped down.

Katipunan residents are probably even more upset now that the government has released figures showing that the most polluted areas in Metro Manila is Quezon City, outranking even Caloocan and Valenzuela with its factories. I wasn't surprised. My friends who live in the Commonwealth area complain constantly about their children's bouts with asthma and respiratory disorders. The inability, or unwillingness, of government to control air pollution means they're killing us, softly but surely.

We tend to blame the dismal air quality on vehicles and factories but fail to see the other important link to people. The most polluted areas are also the most densely populated ones, and it is in these areas where you have the most jeeps and tricycles, spewing their deadly fumes into the air.

Hope?

Maybe there's hope, with Quezon City residents launching their own initiatives and experiments to save the city. Blue Ridge and White Plains are serious about launching garbage segregation. UP Village has become a kind of haven for alternative lifestyles, with small business establishments, including organic food suppliers (check 97 Maginhawa). And there's Market One at the Lung Center, with stalls of fresh farm produce every Sunday morning. And while the Epileptic Circle may drive drivers crazy, do take time out to go into the Quezon Memorial area as well, or cross over to the Ninoy Aquino Wildlife Park.

Quezon City does have the advantage of having large green areas which, if kept green, could help the entire Metro Manila to breathe. That means keeping the trees, especially in the Balara watershed area and the areas around UP, the Quezon Memorial Circle and the Ninoy Aquino Wildlife Park.

We also need to rethink development and explore how we might want to bring back the trees to the Commonwealth area, and find ways for more efficient and less polluting mass public transport. That's not too appealing to politicians, who want the votes of private motorists and jeepney and tricycle drivers. We need to do something, too, about population, but that isn't politically palatable as well.

Sad, but unless we bite the bullet, the dream that was Quezon City will remain just that: a dream in the obscure past.

Justice with feelings

AT LARGE

Riña Jimenez-David

IT WAS not the response one would have expected of a trial court judge, albeit one chosen as the "Most Outstanding" recipient of the first-ever "Gender Justice Awards." For Judge Ma. Nimfa Penaco-Sitaca, far from upholding the common image of judges as cold and unfeeling, stern and overbearing, chose instead to urge her colleagues in the judiciary to "see feelingly," with what she called "the eyes of the heart."

The presiding judge of RTC Branch 13 of Oroquieta City, Judge Penaco-Sitaca was cited for her "lyrically written decisions and for her wisdom, compassion, and knowledge and application of the law." She bested 18 other finalists, culled from a total of 57 nominees, for the "Most Outstanding" award, conceived to "raise the level of awareness of judges on the need for rendering gender-sensitive decisions" on cases involving violence against women.

Why the emphasis on "gender sensitivity" in judges' decisions? As the organizers noted: "Women see the courts as 'unreliable' in understanding their plight and as an institution that can render justice. Many judges and prosecutors continue to perpetuate in their decisions the misconceptions and biases against women and children who are victims of violence. Cases are lost because of the inability of judges and prosecutors to understand the situation of women, the unequal relations of power between men and women in families and in our society, and their continuing acceptance of misconceptions about rape and other forms of violence against women."

Chief Justice Hilario Davide, keynoting the awards rites Wednesday afternoon, acknowledged that "for quite a long time, (we have been aware that) the legal environment is not just dominated by men, but has also been gender-insensitive and unresponsive." He described as "totally intolerable" the fear of many women, pondering whether to bring their victimizers to court, that they would end up "being twice victimized." Unequal treatment "by reason of gender alone has no place in our courts," the Chief Justice declared.

* * *

THE CITATIONS for the other awardees bear out how "misconceptions and biases," as well social expectations of how "decent" women and girls should behave, still prevail within the justice system, since the awardees were recognized precisely for defying these preconceived notions.

Judge Eloida Patricia de Leon-Diaz, the only other woman awardee, was cited for her decision in a case involving an 11-year-old girl raped by her own father. In her decision, Judge Diaz dismissed the contention that any delay in reporting a rape affects the credibility of the complainant. She also refused to be stymied by the "inconclusive" finding of a medical examination, where the doctor said the victim was "still technically a virgin."

Judge Teodoro Bay, presiding judge of RTC Branch 86 in Quezon City, was cited for a decision in a case involving the rape of a 13-year-old student by her teacher, where he refused "to be swayed by stereotypes of how abused women should behave." The defendant had said the stoicism of the victim and her parents "proved" they were simply making up the charges.

Similarly, Judge Edgar Garvilles of Bacolod City was cited for his record of having "no preconceptions about how abused women should behave during and after their ordeal." He relies instead on "(letting) the evidence and testimonies speak for themselves, rendering justice as it should be rendered."

Two judges were recognized for their "novel" decisions: Judge Anthony Santos, a retired judge of Cagayan de Oro, for being the first to convict an accused of marital rape; and Judge Edgardo de los Santos of Bacolod for being the first to apply RA 6965, the law on "mail-order" brides.

* * *

WHEN women and children bring their stories to her court, said Judge Penaco-Sitaca in her acceptance speech, "they bring with them a blinding clarity and I see their pain." There are not many happy stories told in court, she rued, "but changes in the law bring a new sense of hope" to judges like her.

Asked what her "most difficult case" has been in her 14 years as a judge, Penaco-Sitaca says any case "where the complainant is a young girl and cannot express herself fully and so cannot answer the questions put to her" presents her with extreme difficulty. "I have to put on a deadpan expression," she says. "I cannot show my bias or my sympathy for her, much as I would like to help her."

Such cases can move her to tears, she confides. "I have a hanky ready in my pocket, and I wipe away my tears when no one is looking. Sometimes, I even have to pretend to have a coughing fit."

The increasing number of cases of sexual abuse in her court, especially incestuous rape, disturbs her no end. "There is something terrible in this world for these things to happen," she says with disgust.

* * *

"THANK GOD I am not yet hardboiled," the 56-year-old mother of four declares. Told that she doesn't speak or act like a "typical" judge, she laughs and says: "I don't know what is typical!"

"I don't even know what all this fuss is about," she says. "I have just strived all these years to do my job well. I was just lucky. I told myself, all right, you can bask in the limelight for a while, but afterwards, you have to get down to earth. So you know what I did that night? I scrubbed the bathroom! That brought me instantly back to reality!"

But as she recounts her life as a judge, it's obvious that there's more to this soft-spoken and sensitive frustrated writer than appears on the surface.

More on Judge Penaco-Sitaca tomorrow.

Manila in your pocket

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

"IT is a very sad thing," Oscar Wilde once said, "that nowadays there is so little useless information."

Going through my old notebooks, I realized that I gathered a lot of information that can be useless when taken at face value but which, when woven into an essay, can provide interesting asides that help an otherwise static narrative move. For example, the pocket guide to Manila published in 1881 by Juan P. Gutierrez-Gay as "Manila en el bolsillo" naturally contains obsolete data that have become historical within the past century.

When people talked about Manila during the Spanish period, they usually referred to the Walled City or Intramuros. (The Manila we know today extends beyond the walls and is Metro Manila or what was once called "Greater Manila.") The suburbs of Manila were composed of the seven towns: Binondo, San Jose or Trozo, Santa Cruz, Quiapo, San Miguel, Sampaloc and Tondo.

How were these different from the 22 towns of the city: Ermita, Malate, Paco or San Fernando de Dilao, Santa Ana, San Pedro Makati, Pasig, Pateros, Pandacan, Mariquina, San Mateo, Tambobong or Malabon, Parañaque, Caloocan, Novaliches, Las Piñas, Navotas, Muntinlupa, Pineda, San Felipe Neri or Mandaluyong, Taguig and Montalban? Perhaps the Pasig River was the demarcation line.

The guide contains a list of all the principal streets in Manila and suburbs. Aside from directions, the length of each street comes with a brief description. San Miguel, for example, is described as the aristocratic district or suburb because the most luxurious and elegant houses are found along its main street. Malacañang is the most famous structure there today.

Of the five public monuments listed, only three survive today: Carlos IV now in front of the Manila Cathedral, Isabel II infront of the Puerta Isabel near the National Press Club, and Anda in a rotonda near the Port Area. There used to be a monument to Magallanes (that's Magellan to you and me) on Magallanes Street and a monument to Pineda (who was he?) in Malate.

If you got sick in Spanish Manila, there were five hospitals to choose from, but Hospital de San Juan de Dios was the most prominent. Known for its cleanliness and the caring of the Sisters of Charity, the hospital had a ward exclusively for foreigners attended by the English physicians Juan and Ricardo Burke. The Hospital de la Convalencia, considered a branch of San Juan de Dios, was described as well-ventilated, and was best for convalescence. San Lazaro Hospital specialized in a number of diseases like elephantiasis, skin diseases and all types of syphilis. The Franciscans were in charge of San Lazaro. There was a Military Hospital, and for those who traveled to Laguna, there were the hot medicinal waters of Los Baños (The Baths).

Today we have bottled water which are generically called "mineral" by the ignorant who don't seem to know the difference between spring water, mineral water, distilled water, filtered water or plain tap water put in a bottle. Any bottled water is called "mineral water." But in the Spanish period, you had a choice between still and fizzy water or *refrescos gaseosos*. These could be purchased from the drugstores of D. Carlos Plitt, Don Pablo Schuster or A.S. Watson (is this the same Watson Drugstore in Hong Kong that also sells distilled water to this day?) *Agua con gas* (water with gas) as well as *agua sin gas* (water without gas) was served in the various cafés in Manila. Potable water came from the Pasig River, which wasn't as polluted as it is today. There was Algibe de S. Fernando that provided good and cheap water. The most expensive water came from Mariquina, transported in clay jars by men from the town. Two *bangas* of water sold for four *reales*.

Café de la Campana was so famous it was listed even if it had burned down and had not reopened at the time the guidebook went to press. There was also Café El Suizo and the Café La Esperenanza, where one could take coffee or chocolate, wines, liquor, sweets, pastries and full meals. These had gaming and billiard tables.

What caught my attention were "*helados*" or "ices" served in these cafés. These could be anything from ice cream, sherbet or plain shaved ice with syrup.

Where did the ice come from? There was a time when ice was imported from Wenham Lake in Boston. Ice was cut from the frozen lake, loaded on ships and exported all the way from the United States to India. A stopover was made in Manila. I can imagine people buying ice or chilled water from the ship, wrapping this in a sack or rolling the ice in rice husk and running home as fast as they could to preserve most of the ice before it melted.

I have seen photographs of the Insular Ice Plant that once stood at the foot of the bridge leading to Quiapo and I thought ice was brought in by the Americans. But in 1881, there was already an ice factory on Barraca Street, Binondo, owned by Don Julio Witte. Ice was continuously produced but there was no fixed price for it. The price varied, going up and down just like the mercury in thermometers.

All the above may be useless information indeed, but one day if and when the time machine is invented, historians like myself can travel back to Spanish colonial Philippines well-prepared by obsolete tourist guidebooks like "*Manila en el bolsillo*" or Manila in your pocket.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

God's gifts to the Filipino people

YOUR July 25, 2004, Sunday issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer carried a lot of articles that caused me to shed tears of joy as I read them. Yes, because the stories were of the kind that makes us really proud to be Filipinos.

1. The selflessness and statesmanship Vice President Noli de Castro showed in giving way to Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman to remain as head of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. May his humility and sacrifice serve as an example for other government officials to emulate.

2) The success of the Mandaluyong children's choir which won second place in the youth category of the international singing competition recently held in Canada.

3) Nestor Sulpico, the honest Filipino cabbie who returned the $70,000 worth of pearls that a passenger left in a backpack in the cab that he was driving in New York. The Good Lord has granted his childhood fantasy to become a popular and respected person, thus he is now a hero just for doing something good.

4) Isagani A. Cruz's column on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's honorable decision to pull out our humanitarian forces from Iraq. Cruz would not allow other world leaders to brand us as a nation of cowards but would rather remind one and all of what Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando aptly called "the valor of ignorance."

5) Last but not the least, may I include Rev. Fr. James B. Reuter's "At 3:00 A.M." in the July 24, 2004 issue of another broadsheet. He said—while Filipinos are leaving this country to go to the United States, I never regretted coming to the Philippines and never regretted staying here. The Filipinos are the most lovable people in the world. He expressed his admiration for our country and its people many times in his past articles. He once wrote, "If you are looking for the most beautiful smile in the world you have to come home to the Philippines."

Aren't all these God's blessings for our country and the Filipino people? Let us be thankful for them.

—JESSIE RELOVA GOCO,
housewife,
Magallanes Village, Makati City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Who's scaring investors?

THIS has reference to a letter written by Mr. Pete Ilagan titled "Concepcion's judicial interference," which appeared in your paper on Aug. 9. I do not have to defend Mr. Concepcion since I am sure he can take care of himself. What I could not let pass is Ilagan's irresponsible statements against Meralco.

I must admire, however, Mr. Ilagan's consistency in pursuing his objective to demolish Meralco by putting the company not only in a bad light, but more so to create a strain on our finances.

He says in his letter and I quote, "Investors in general are scared away because of excessive cost recoveries, e.g., high power rates, charged by Meralco."

After such a long time of positioning himself as a consumer advocate in the power industry, how can Mr. Ilagan be so naive in believing that the high power rates are caused by Meralco's charges? He very well knows that Meralco accounts for only about 20 percent of the customers' total bills. Because of Ilagan's "selective amnesia," he fails to consider other components in the electricity bills, such as, generation, transmission and universal charges, among others.

Contrary to what Ilagan would like us to believe, it is not the so-called "high rates" which are behind the investors' negative sentiments. It is people like Ilagan, with misleading and irresponsible statements, that drive investors away.

I would rather not refute point by point Ilagan's other twisted, re-hashed statements as we already have done that in several fora in the past.

I would just like to give Mr. Ilagan an unsolicited advice. If he intends to enter the electricity supply business in the future, maybe he should act more professionally by coming out with statements based on facts, not on half-truths. Consumers, in the long run, are able to see through statements such as his.

—ELPI O. CUNA JR.,
vice president and
head corporate communication,
Meralco,
Lopez Building, Meralco Center,
Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City,

Robinsons Supermarket

big R Supercenter

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Voices on taxes

THERE'S no need for additional taxes. What the government should do is make sure that the agencies concerned with revenue collection are doing their tasks. Fire the inept, reward the whistle-blowers, jail the corrupt, get back their loot, and give the taxpayers what they fully deserve.—**Jun Gumatay, 228 Reun Tong Apartment, Soi 47, Paholyothin Road, Chatuchak, Bangkok, Thailand (via e-mail)**

* * *

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I have no doubt that through tax credit certificates (TCCs), the government's pockets are picked twice by resourceful, well-connected persons: the first time, in the beneficiaries' presumed payment of taxes; the second time, when the certificates are sold like any other commercial note. And to think that the certificates are vulnerable to duplication, forgery, over-issuance, etc.

The TCC system is fodder for scams, and must be stopped. But who would stop it, when everybody involved is probably cashing in on it?—**Pete Salambat, Calamba, Laguna, via e-mail**

* * *

There are many ways for the government to raise revenues but I think the top priority should be on saving. Since it is willing to try out a new form of government, then it might as well try new ways to save.

I know my suggestions will not be able to penetrate the callous brains of our public officials, but let me state them anyway:

1. Why not scrap the pork barrel, then rechannel the savings to local governments? The funds will go a long way in the hands of the LGUs. They can also be easily audited. Why entrust huge sums of money to the goons in Congress when they have not proven their worth since 1988?

2. Should the Constitution be amended, it would be better to limit the number of congressmen and senators. If a company is bankrupt, the logical thing to do is lay off people who are not vital to the operations. If representation is the issue, I think one man can stand for the whole city of Manila. Fewer people in Congress means less corruption, fewer debates, fewer salaries to pay, and less politics, which may lead to a higher rate in passing bills.

3. Instead of creating new agencies, why not merge agencies with similar functions? It seems the government wants to employ everyone. There are many non-functional agencies—or are they created to serve someone?

4. Create a Bureau of Internal Revenue task force dedicated to running after tax evaders. That will be a tough one.—**Rommel C. Dahiroc, Blk 4 Normanton Park, Singapore 11900, via e-mail**

* * *

Filipinos have a tendency to complain about problems without offering solutions.,

Let's take for example the proposed tax on text messaging. If the government charges 10 centavos per text, will that hurt too much? Ten text messages a day will cost only an extra peso. That can easily be covered by smoking one stick of cigarette (which costs P1.50) less every day. The extra 10 centavos, if multiplied by the millions of text messages sent every day, will translate to millions of pesos for the government. I urge the government to use the money from text messages solely for education.—**Rommel Abela, Balintawak, Quezon City, via e-mail**

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Family feud led to Army-MILF clash

COTABATO CITY—A family feud led to fighting between government soldiers and Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao on Tuesday that killed three persons, including an Army officer.

A committee monitoring compliance with a ceasefire agreement between the rebels and the government made this conclusion after investigating the clash between the soldiers and rebels.

The armed encounter did not violate the 1997 ceasefire agreement, said members of the committee on the cessation of hostilities led by Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano of the government and Benjie Midtimbang of the MILF.

Midtimbang said the rebels just defended themselves after mistaking soldiers from the 37th IB as among members of a government militia that killed two civilians.

S/Sgt. Philip Pedregosa was killed by MILF guerrillas when they clashed with soldiers who were sent to investigate the killing of the two civilians in Barangay Dapiawan.

Maj. Gen. Raul Relano, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said Pedregosa's group was just responding to the 7:30 a.m. killing of traders Mohammad Ali Kahal and Bra Udto by a government militia under Dapiawan village chief Limon Toledo when fired upon by about 100 rebels.

Relano considered the incident as a truce violation, but said "it's up to members of the CCCH (monitoring committee) to find out who's at fault or which group violated the agreement."

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the armed militia belonging to the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit and under the command of Toledo killed Kahal and Udto, who were suspected of stealing cattle.

When the victims' relatives tried to retrieve their bodies, they were blocked Toledo's men, prompting MILF relatives of the victims to intervene.

Outnumbered, Toledo's Cafgus sought Army reinforcement that led to the gun battle, Relano said.

Kabalu said the family feud began in November last year when a Toledo relative and security escort Badrudin Zacaria killed a certain "Kombo," a trusted ally of the prominent Guiapar family of Datu Piang town. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gov't agrees to tests of banned shrimp species amid importation plans

BALER, Aurora—The government has approved a test on the breeding and culture of the shrimp species *Litopenaeus vannamei*, which it has banned in the last 26 years, to protect the P30-billion tiger prawn (*sugpo*) industry.

"The decision (on whether to lift or to stay the ban on *vannamei* shrimps) will be made based on the result of this experiment," Malcolm Sarmiento Jr., director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, said.

For the trial phase, the government will use specific pathogen resistant stocks from Honolulu, Hawaii.

Sarmiento said no test stocks would come from Taiwan, where viral diseases of *vannamei*, locally called "*suati*," had been monitored.

The experiment, he said, would be done in the BFAR's center in Dagupan City.

"It will be done under controlled environment and we will be monitoring everything," Sarmiento said.

He said leaders of the aquaculture industry, during a recent conference, agreed to this plan.

Through the test, Sarmiento said his agency could "decide with finality" whether to allow *vannamei* importation.

In the last five years, feeds manufacturers have strongly lobbied for its entry. Some growers, on the other hand, have sought viable alternatives to tiger prawns (*Penaus monodon*).

Reports said some officials of the Board of Investments are supporting proposals to legalize the entry of *vannamei* to boost the country's dollar earnings.

The Department of Trade and Industry, however, has not categorically supported or objected to the importation plan.

The BFAR last year seized at least four shipments of *vannamei* passed off as milkfish fry and smuggled through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Subic Bay International Airport and Laoag International Airport.

Even with the ban, 700 hectares of ponds in Bataan, Pampanga, Zambales and Quezon have been stocked with *vannamei*, according to a UN FAO-commissioned research. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

DOJ asked to step into probe of GenSan reporter's murder

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Task Force Media (TFM) here has urged the Department of Justice to conduct a separate investigation of the Aug. 8 murder of RGMA Super Radyo reporter Jonathan Abayon.

TFM, which was organized by the local newsmen to monitor the progress of the case filed against the suspect in the killing of Abayon, urged Justice Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez to intervene in the investigation and prosecution of the case to avoid a possible whitewash.

The local police had already filed murder complaint against the suspect William Bael, who remains at large.

In a letter dated Aug. 17, TFM said it was "quite apprehensive of the possible outcome of the investigation by local authorities considering that the chief city prosecutor in General Santos City is a close relative of Mr. Pacquiao's wife Jinky Jamora-Pacquiao."

Newsmen here were also irked by the premature pronouncement made by Supt. Willie Dangane, city police director, ruling out the involvement of boxing champion Manny Pacquiao in the killing of the RGMA reporter.

The newsmen's apprehension was further bolstered by Dangane's objection to the TFM's move asking the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Manila to take the lead in investigating the case.

Dangane, in one of his media interviews, warned that requesting NBI to intervene would just weaken the murder case filed against Bael.

The media practitioners were wondering why the police hastily filed the case even when there was no autopsy conducted on the victim's body.

On Monday, Abayon's wife, Leah, wrote local NBI office a letter requesting for an autopsy of her husband's remains. *Aquiles Zonio and Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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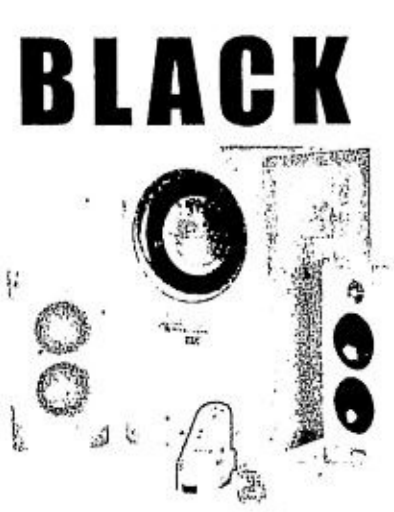
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Town execs assume posts

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The elected officials of the town of Victoria, Northern Samar finally assumed office on Thursday last week, two months after most winners in the May 10 elections have taken office.

Mayor Nicolas Purog Jr., Vice Mayor Dolores Verde and the eight town council members assumed their posts by virtue of an *en banc* decision of the Commission on Elections dated Aug. 4 directing the municipal board of canvassers to proclaim the duly elected winners of the May 10 elections.

William Paler, the regional director of the Department of Interior and Local Government in Eastern Visayas, said the DILG regional office was informed of the assumption of the town's elected officials on Tuesday through their provincial office in Catarman, Northern Samar.

With the assumption into office of the elected officials of Victoria, only the town of Silvino Lobos, also in Northern Samar, remains without elected officials in the region.

The regional office of DILG had assigned caretakers for the two towns.

Consorcia Turlao, the caretaker-designate, returns to her post.

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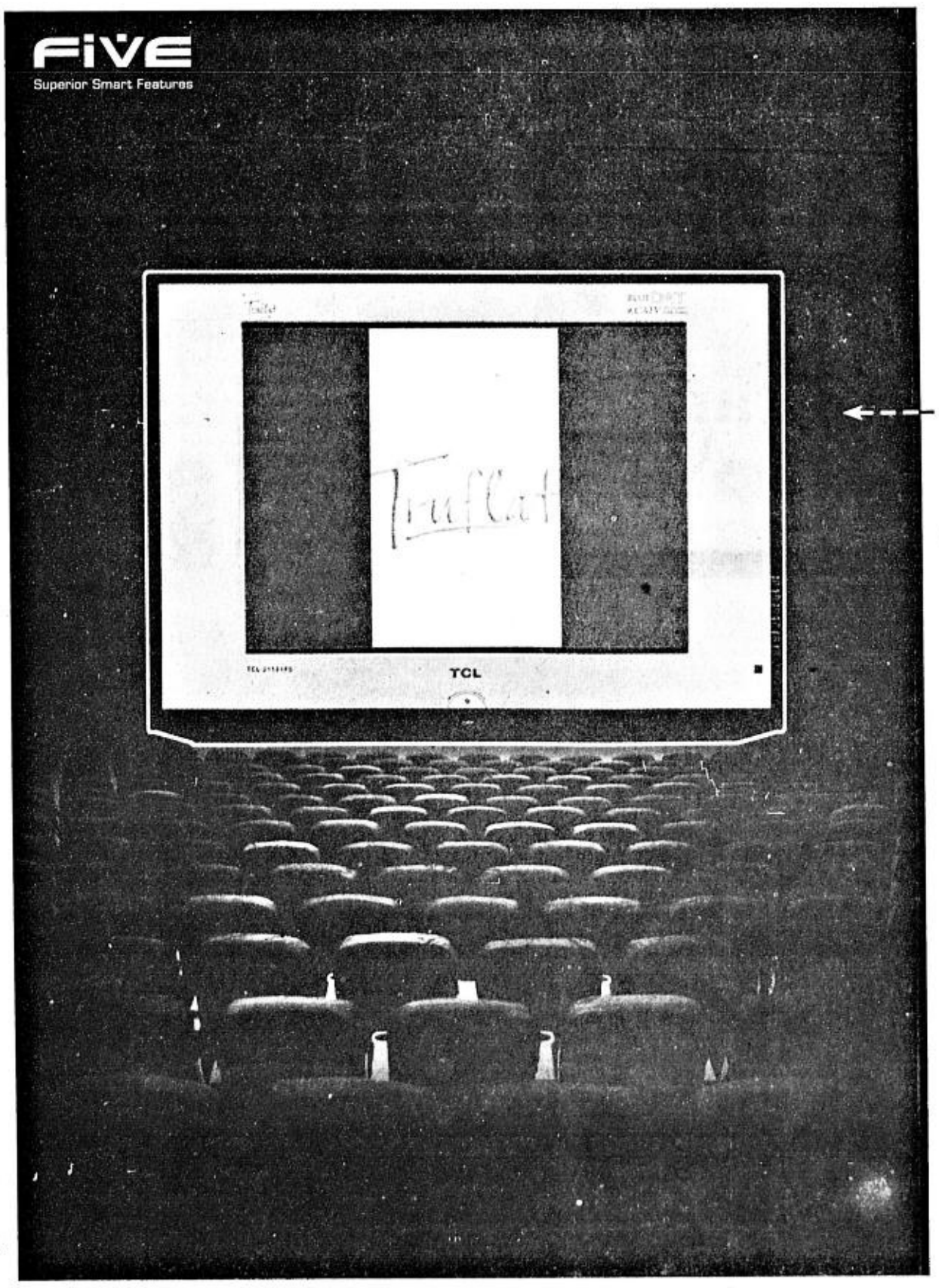

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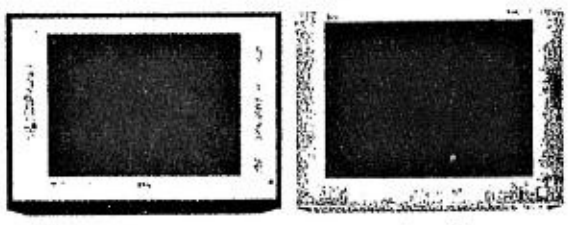
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2 govs seek better pay for docs

BACOLOD CITY—The two governors of Negros Island are seeking the amendment of the Salary Standardization Law to provide higher wages for government doctors and nurses to prevent them from leaving the country to work abroad.

Governors Joseph Marañon of Negros Occidental and George Arnaiz of Negros Oriental urged congressmen on the island to push for the law's revision.

Jose Ma. Valencia, chief of staff of Marañon, said the two provincial governments could not raise the wages of these medical workers due to the caps set by the Salary Standardization Law.

In the meantime, he added, the government hospitals are losing their medical workers to foreign hospitals.

Acting on behalf of Marañon, Valencia met with Arnaiz on Tuesday in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental to discuss joint measures to ensure that both provinces were able to provide quality health services.

Valencia said Arnaiz told him that some district hospitals in Negros Oriental might have to be closed because of lack of doctors.

In the case of Negros Occidental, Marañon said the 11 province-run hospitals might lose 34 percent of their doctors and 39 percent of their nurses to jobs abroad.

Several government doctors are forced to shift careers by taking up nursing courses due to low pay.

Salary of government doctors ranged from P15,000 to P18,000 a month, and about P9,000 for nurses. But if they work in the United States as nurses, they will receive an equivalent to up to P216,000 in monthly income. In the United Kingdom, nurses are paid P119,000 a month.

Two congressmen in Negros Occidental have expressed support for the move to amend the Salary Standardization Law.

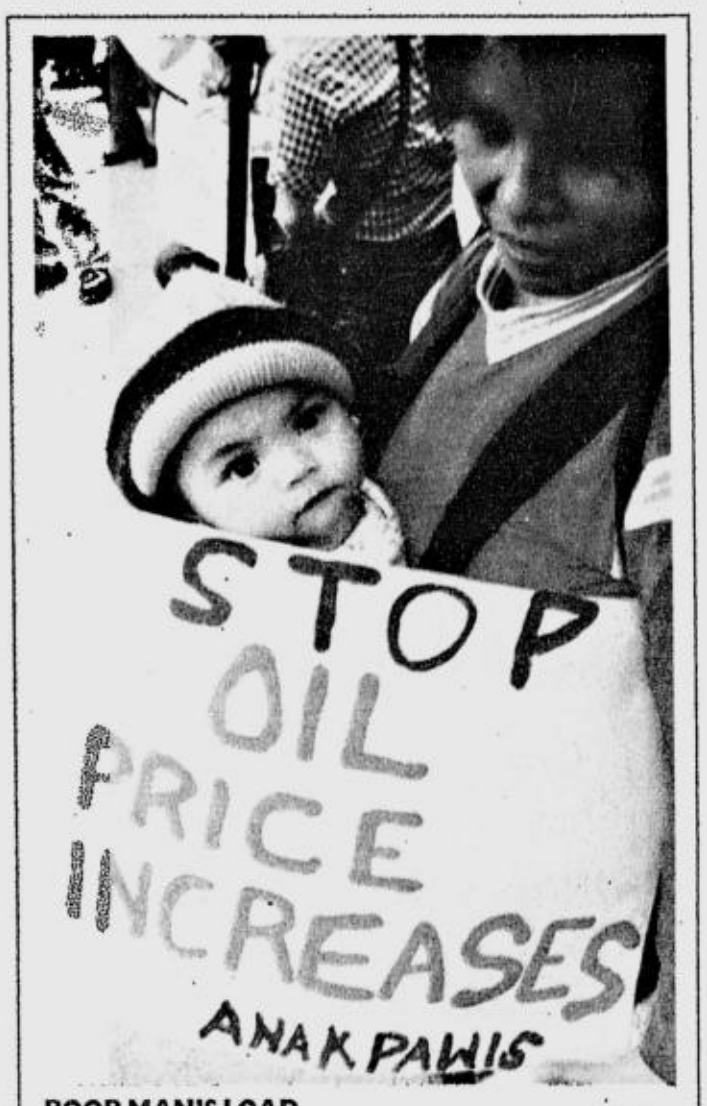
Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Marañon III (second district), brother of the governor, agreed that the salaries of doctors should be raised to persuade them to stay in the country.

Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo Jr. (fifth district) said he would seek the support of other lawmakers, not just in his province, for the law's amendment because the exodus of health workers was being felt nationwide.

"We need to keep our good doctors here to take care of our people," he said.

Pending amendment of the law, the two provincial governments on Negros Island were discussing joint incentives for the doctors and nurses to encourage them to stay.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau



POOR MAN'S LOAD EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Protesters, including some who couldn't leave their babies behind, join a rally in Baguio City to demand a stop to continuing increases in oil prices, which has made the poor's burden heavier.

Execs declare Bulacan in state of calamity

CITY OF MALOLOS—The provincial government has declared a state of calamity in the agricultural areas of Bulacan due to the shortage of irrigation water supply from the National Irrigation Administration.

Gov. Josefina de la Cruz and Gloria Carillo, Department of Agriculture provincial chief, recommended the calamity state declaration to allow the provincial government to use funds to save the rice and vegetable farms in the province.

Carillo said farmers have lost at least P3 million worth of crops due to the lack of irrigation water from the Angat Dam.

She said with the state of calamity declaration, the provincial government could immediately identify the areas hardest hit by the water shortage and supply them with water pumps and shallow tube wells.

She said the recent increase in the water elevation in the dam remains insufficient to supply the irrigation needs of Bulacan farmers.

Dam dependent

Carillo said a large part of the 26,000 hectares of agricultural land in Bulacan being irrigated by NIA is dependent on the Angat Dam or rainwater.

She said only 10,000 hectares are irrigated by the natural water flow from the Bayabas and Maasim rivers in the mountainous areas of the province.

Since March this year, the Angat Dam has stopped releasing water supply to the NIA for the irrigation needs of farmers because of the continuous drop in the reservoir's level.

Mendell Garcia, chief of the Angat Watershed reservoir, said they were forced to cut off irrigation water supply when the dam's level reached 180 meters early this year.

The dam's average water level is between 190 meters and 210 meters while its spilling level is 214 meters.

The lowest level recorded this year was 167.17 meters on July 15 this year.

Garcia said their priority is to supply the potable water needs of Metro Manila and its outlying areas.

He said 90 percent of the water reserve in Angat goes to Metro Manila while the rest goes to the irrigation needs of Bulacan.

Dam officials are blaming the lack of rain over the watershed area in Bulacan from January to June this year for the water shortage. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Gov, execs celebrate birthday of Quezon

LUCENA CITY—Quezon Gov. Wilfrido Enverga led the floral offering at the foot of the Quezon Monument at the newly refurbished Perez Park here yesterday during the observance of the 126th birthday of the first president of the Philippine Commonwealth, Manuel Luis Quezon.

Sen. Richard Gordon was supposed to be the guest of honor for the affair but he did not make it in time for the floral offering early yesterday morning.

Instead, the former secretary of tourism led the guests in the inauguration of the Ceremonial Hall on the third floor of the old provincial capitol in front of the park.

Provincial and local government officials, and representatives of non-government organizations, private offices, military, religious and schools joined the floral offering.

Quezon Bishop Emilio Marquez and several priests officiated a Catholic Mass at the foot of the bronze monument before the flower offering.

Quezon was born on Aug. 19, 1878 in the small town of Baler, Tayabas, now Quezon.

He died in Saranac Lake in the United States on Aug. 1, 1944 at the age of 66.

Jeep drivers cry unfair competition vs bus lines

SORSOGON CITY—A competition between buses and jeepneys in Sorsogon province is brewing, with buses charging lower fare than jeepneys to lure more passengers.

Jeepney operators and drivers here are complaining. The Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Associations Inc. (Fejoda) filed a complaint at the regional office of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board in Legazpi City, saying buses plying Legazpi, Sorsogon, Bulan and Matnog were not charging the correct fare.

Ding Bobis, head of the Sorsogon Provincial Transport Alliance (Porta), said four bus lines charge passengers lower than the amounts punched in their tickets.

Bobis said the LTFRB had arranged a meeting between jeepney and bus operators on July 30 but no memorandum of agreement between the groups had been signed.

"The MOA is supposed to enforce the charging of the correct fare rate, but they (bus operators) are not following it until now. Pity some 3,000 jeepney drivers in Sorsogon," Bobis said.

But lawyer Darius Almojuela of Queens Express said the jeepney operators and drivers have no "personality to file the complaint" since "jeepneys are of a different classification from buses."

The approved bus fare rate is P6 for the first 5 km and P1.10 for the succeeding km and P5.50 for jeepneys for the first 4 kilometers and P1 for succeeding kilometers.

For 24 kilometers, the buses charge P15, P11 less than the correct fare of P26, Bobis said.

From Legazpi to Sorsogon and vice versa, buses are supposed to charge P68.50, while jeepneys charge P55.50 for Daraga-Sorsogon route.

Fejoda said its members charge the correct rate based on their fare matrix.

Bobis said they have been urging the LTFRB to act on their complaint.

"I was told that they will send us a notice for another hearing but they 've not given us any date," he said. *Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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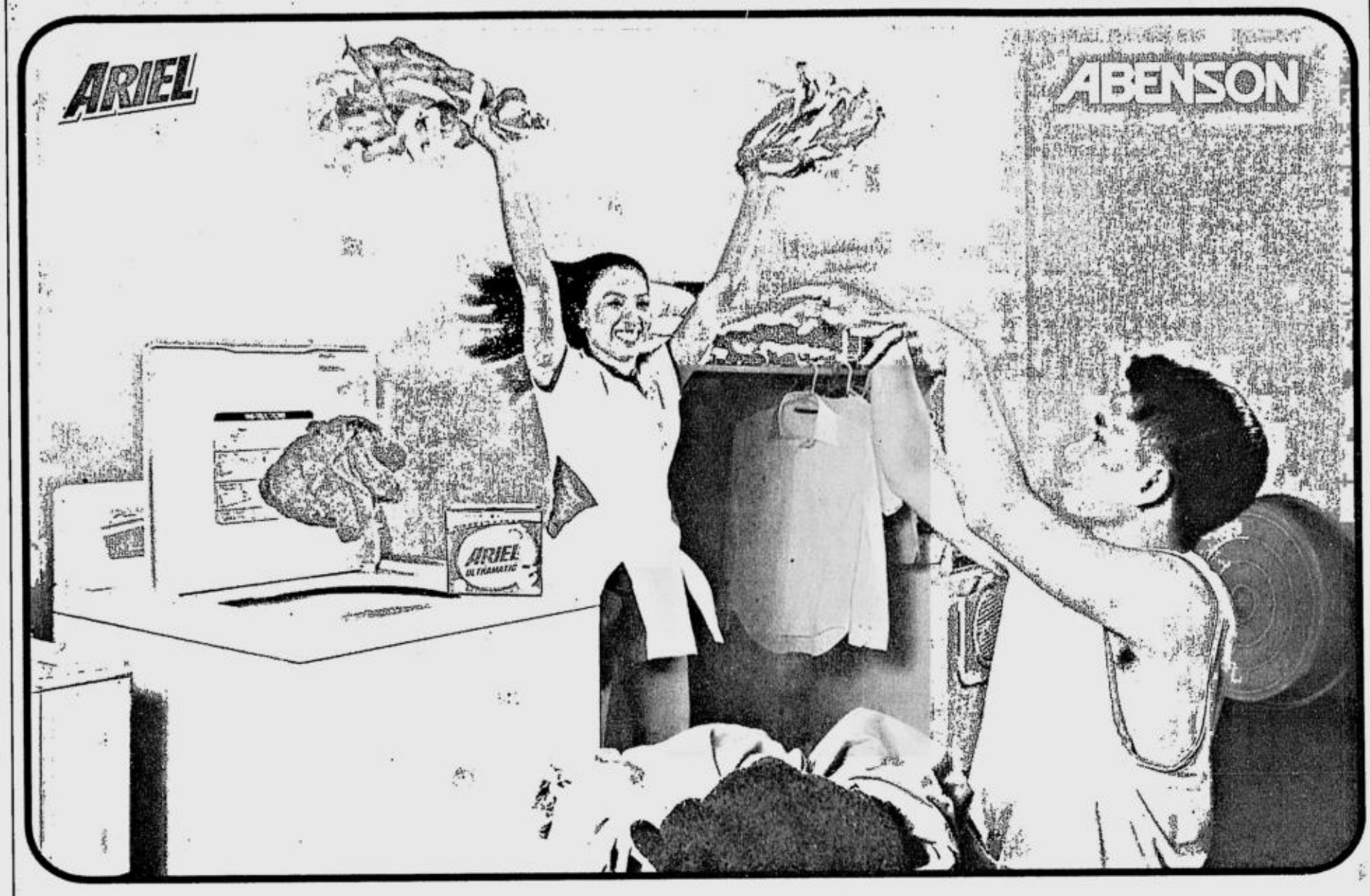

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New defense secretary under siege

From page A1

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"Attorney Cruz will fit very well in the [DND] because he has been with the bureaucracy for some time now. He has been exposed to goings-on in the various departments," Ermita, who was named executive secretary, said at a Manila Overseas Press Club forum.

Cruz himself said he could bring to the job "a fresh outlook from a civilian point of view" and would push for reforms in the military and defense establishments because he had "no deep ties" with the military.

He denied that his appointment to a major department was another powerful political accommodation to the Villaraza & Angangco Law Office, formerly the Carpio Villaraza & Cruz Law Office, of which he is a founding partner.

The law office is called "The Firm" because of its influence as private counsel of the First Family.

Ms Arroyo's appointees, Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio and Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, are also former partners. Cruz himself, prior to his DND posting, was the presidential legal adviser.

"Our law office does not interfere with the government," Cruz said. But he declared: "I will make sure that they (the law office and its clients) don't ever come near the [DND]."

Cruz also said it had been so long since he resigned as a partner in the law office—in 2001—that he was wondering why critics continued to associate him with it.

"I think people should stop linking me with my previous affiliation," he said.

Sensitive to Oakwood issues

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Cruz said he was sensitive to the issues raised by the young officers who mounted the failed mutiny last year at the Oakwood hotel in Makati City, which was why he had made stamping out corruption in the military one of his top priorities.

"My goal is to ensure transparency and fair play in all military contracts," he said. "This is why I have asked the Department of Budget and Management to take over the procurement of key military supplies."

The DND is one of the biggest funded departments, with multibillion-peso projects involving military modernization and equipment procurement.

According to Cruz, Ms Arroyo decided to pick a civilian because the Feliciano Commission, which she had formed to investigate the causes of the failed mutiny on July 27, 2003, asked for it.

The commission in turn endorsed the recommendation of the Davide Commission, which looked into the causes of the coup attempts during the Aquino administration.

In its report, the Feliciano Commission said: "Beyond the need to institutionalize the supremacy of the civilian authority over the military, the appointment of persons who have not had long and deep ties to the military, and who have not held positions in the military establishment that itself needs to be reformed, is essential if a reform program is to succeed.

Not micro-manage

"Although military officers acquire a civilian status upon retirement, they are likely to bring the rigidity of hierarchy, seniority, camaraderie and other aspects of the military culture into the office of the SND (Secretary of National Defense) that would obstruct reform."

Ermita said he had no doubt that Cruz could "face up to the challenge" of heading the DND.

"He does not have to be involved directly in military matters," Ermita said. "I am sure he will relate very well with the chain of command."

Ermita also said that with Cruz's being a civilian, there was a big possibility that he would not resort to micro-management, as compared with retired military officials who could be faced with the temptation to involve themselves in military matters.

Cruz worked with Ermita for Ms Arroyo's election campaign in May.

He resigned as her chief legal counsel to work full-time in the campaign, providing "legal advice" to her and her coalition.

Ermita worked—behind the scenes—as "CEO" of Ms Arroyo's campaign. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

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Gordon, who was the tourism secretary for three years until he ran for senator early this year, said political accommodations were "part and parcel of democracy" but, according to him, certain Cabinet posts like the tourism portfolio, should not be used as "rewards for loyalty."

He said that although the tourism portfolio did not need a rocket scientist, "filling the tourism [post] with a new guy will give [the world] the impression that we're not serious."

Concession to Cebu?

The appointment of Cebu Rep. Joseph Ace Durano to the Department of Tourism was reportedly one of the concessions that Cebuanos demanded in return for their overwhelming support for Ms Arroyo in the presidential election.

A militant organization of fishermen said the new appointments were nothing but political payback.

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz said the reappointment of previous officials was a sign that the administration was incapable of a fresh start.

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A source said Malacañang left Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus out in the cold to accommodate Abad, president of the Liberal Party.

The source, who asked not to be named, said Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, an LP member, personally lobbied for Abad's appointment.

But in a statement from the United States, De Jesus said he chose Abad as his successor.

De Jesus on leave

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Antonio Tinio, Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) chair, doubted that Abad would be able to solve the "education crisis" because the government would not increase the DepEd budget.

"While we respect the President's prerogative I think it's a political accommodation," Domingo Alidon, president of the DepEd national employees union, said at news conference.

Abad said his appointment did not come as a surprise to him. Contacted by phone, Abad said he knew he was in the short list because De Jesus contacted him about it a month ago.

Abad said De Jesus had told him that he was planning to leave the department.

Outstanding choice

The ACT and the employees union assailed Abad's lack of background as an educator. But Makati Business Club vice chair Ramon del Rosario Jr. said Abad was a good choice for the education portfolio.

Del Rosario said the "most outstanding" choice made by the President was her appointment of former Ayala Land Inc. president Francisco Licuanan as presidential adviser for Clark and Subic.

He said another key move by the President was the appointment of Vice President Noli de Castro as head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

"This will hopefully assure continued strong support for housing," Del Rosario said. For the rest, the public should give the President the benefit of the doubt, he said.

Miguel Varela, chair of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, said some of the new appointees have had proven track records.

Highly politicized

Opposition senators said the appointments to the Cabinet were highly politicized. "They're all political payback," Sen. Edgardo Angara said.

Making the same observation was Minority Leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who said that "many appointees were in payment of political debt, but it doesn't mean they're not qualified."

Pimentel said some appointments like Avelino "Nonong" Cruz, former chief presidential legal counsel, who was named defense secretary, and former Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, who was named justice secretary, could be questioned.

Most qualified

In the House of Representatives, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. hailed the President's decision to mobilize the "best men and women leaders" of civil society and the political parties to her Cabinet, particularly the "most qualified" senior leaders from the House of Representatives.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said the appointment of another retired general as executive secretary revealed Ms Arroyo's bias for the military.

He was referring to Eduardo Ermita, former defense secretary, who replaced executive secretary Alberto Romulo, who was named foreign affairs secretary.

Fast turnover at DAR

Ocampo expressed apprehension over the fast turnover at the Department of Agrarian Reform.

In the last 10 months, the DAR has seen three secretaries: Roberto Pagdanganan, Jose Maria Ponce and now Rene Villa.

A farmers' group alleged that Villa was "very close" to landlords, particularly those in the Visayas, to be named the agrarian reform secretary.

The Partnership for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Services registered its objection to Villa's appointment, saying he's identified with past efforts to exempt some 100 hectares of rice and sugar lands from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo.

Greenpeace International expressed the hope that Mike Defensor, the newly named environment secretary, would make environment a priority of the administration.

Gozun declines

Elisea Gozun declined her appointment as chair of the Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC) and said she would rather go back to private life.

"I am very thankful to the President with her offer to chair the NRDC but as a mother she understands my predicament now," Gozun told the INQUIRER.

Gozun admits that she is not yet through mourning her husband Chuck Gozun, who died in July.

"I'm a single parent now and I want to be there for my children and spend more time with them," she said. *With reports from Ronnel W. Domingo, Christine A. Gaylican, Volt Contreras, Christine O. Avendaño and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

GMA: They must agree with me

From page A1

"As a second-termer, I know the people suited for the job," she said. And no, it was not as though she was paying off political debts because, she added, "there are people that I owe but they are not suited for the positions."

Ignacio Bunye, the President's spokesperson and newly named press secretary, yesterday had his hands full defending the more controversial of the new appointees. These included Avelino "Nonong" Cruz Jr., of the powerful law firm, who was named defense secretary. *(See banner story on Page A1.)*

More appointees

All those appointed were "the most capable persons to implement the programs of the administration," Bunye said in a speech marking the 3rd Visayas Communications Network Convention at the Cebu Grand Hotel.

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He described the new Cabinet—generally a reshuffle of the old—as being of one vision, one mission, one team.

"This is the team that will work with Congress in carrying out common objectives to serve the people and to secure their future. Let us trust the President in her appointments and move forward," he said.

'Ladderized system'

On Wednesday night, Ms Arroyo ticked off the work experience of some of the officials who would assist her in implementing the 10-point program that she announced in her inaugural address last June.

She said her choice of Rep. Augusto Syjuco as chair and director general of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) was based on the latter's proposed "ladderized system" in vocational schools, which would credit the subjects taken in vocational courses in colleges and universities and allow students to complete a college degree sooner.

She also said her choice of incumbent Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan to head the Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC) was based on his experience as a marketing executive in the multinational company Unilever.

Pagdanganan told the INQUIRER that he would concentrate on Ms Arroyo's program of providing low-priced medicines.

He said he welcomed his appointment to the PITC but regretted being unable to follow through with the transfer of the main tourism office to Cebu.

Pagdanganan's 34-year-old replacement, Rep. Joseph Ace Durano (NPC, 5th district, Cebu), yesterday issued a statement saying he hoped to secure the cooperation of the officials and employees of the tourism department.

The President explained that she chose Durano because he shared her vision of tapping the China market to boost tourism in the Philippines.

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No individual players

Bunye said that while he could not dwell on the "whys and wherefores of each appointment," he could vouch that the appointees had been "very seriously considered by the President."

"And again let me emphasize that [she] wants a good team. She doesn't want any individual players. She wants a team who subscribes to the same mission and same vision and is willing to implement the programs that she has laid out for the six-year term," he said, adding:

"I'm sure there are others who will not be entirely satisfied [with the appointments]. The important thing to emphasize is that the President has made her choice, and I don't think there's any point in bickering."

Asked whether the new Cabinet members were Ms Arroyo's personal choices or recommended by her search committee, Bunye said: "In the final analysis, all decisions are the decision of the President. But in some cases, specifically those that relate to economic matters and those [she] does not know personally, these are evaluated by the search committee."

Ms Arroyo mentioned only Francisco Licuanan as having been recommended by the search committee.

De Castro et al.

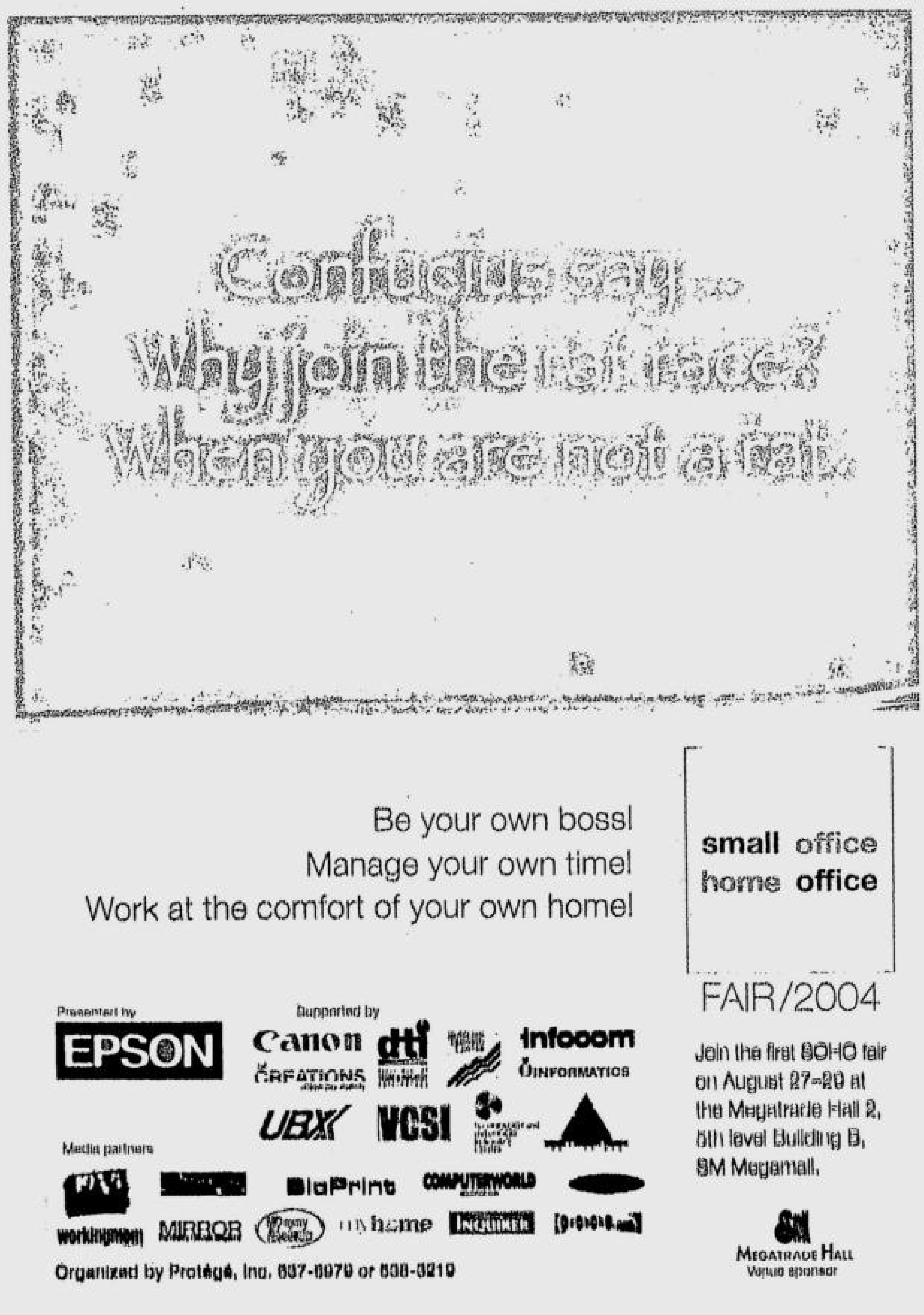
Bunye denied that some of the appointments were political favors, such as giving Vice President Noli de Castro his third concurrent position as housing czar, and naming former Congressmen Raul Gonzalez and Florencio "Butch" Abad as justice and education secretaries, respectively.

"The criteria used by the President are mainly competence and, of course, adherence to the 10-point program and other core reforms that [she] would like to push. ... If there are other appointees who may have political background, then that is only incidental," Bunye said.

De Castro was earlier named the President's co-chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission and her adviser on overseas Filipino workers. On Wednesday, he was named head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council in place of Michael Defensor, who was given the environment portfolio.

"The Vice President appears to be ready to take on additional work, and I guess he knows what he's doing when he accepted the additional responsibilities," Bunye said.

He denied that some Cabinet officials were demoted, such as Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo who was appointed foreign secretary. With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau



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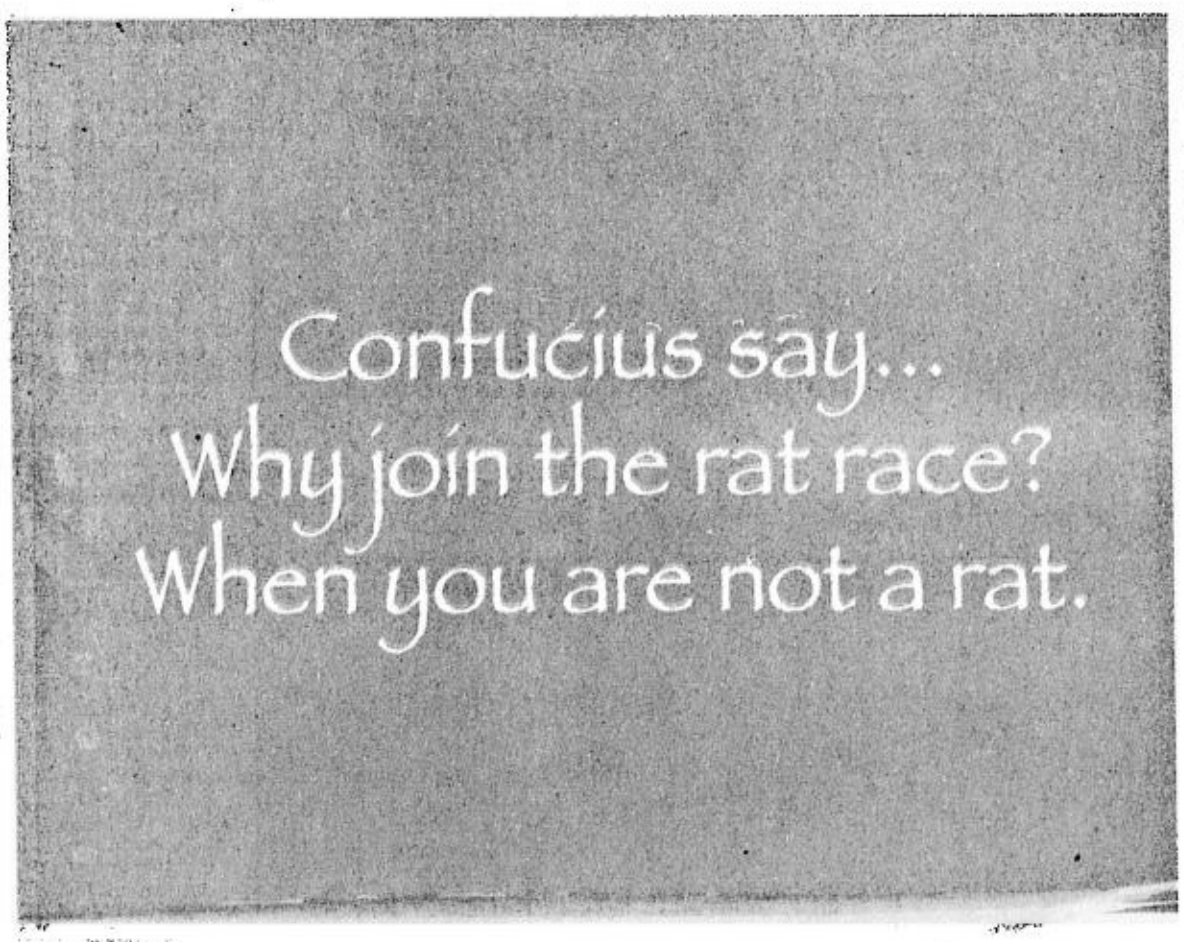
"The criteria used by the President are mainly competence and, of course, adherence to the 10-point program and other core reforms that [she] would like to push. ... If there are other appointees who may have political background, then that is only incidental," Bunye said.

De Castro was earlier named the President's co-chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission and her adviser on overseas Filipino workers. On Wednesday, he was named head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council in place of Michael Defensor, who was given the environment portfolio.

"The Vice President appears to be ready to take on additional work, and I guess he knows what he's doing when he accepted the additional responsibilities," Bunye said.

He denied that some Cabinet officials were demoted, such as Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo who was appointed foreign secretary. With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Convicted soldier tags close Aquino relative

From page A1

ed that the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos was behind the killing of his father.

Martinez, 67, made and signed the affidavit with the help of the Public Attorney's Office in the hope of reopening the case.

The Sandiganbayan had convicted Martinez and 14 others in 1990 for the murders of Aquino and Galman. They were sentenced to two life terms each.

Cojuangco link

The Aquino scion said it was not logical to link Cojuangco to the assassination by merely saying that most of those accused in the crime came from Central Luzon.

"Using human logic, *hindi posible yon* (That's not possible). Marcos knew Danding was close to my dad. (Marcos) had to choose—*sa may konting duda o sa sigurado* (between a person you would doubt a little and one that you were sure about)," he said.

Aquino said the way the crime was committed was like following a script.

"If you look at the scenario, *puro siya* (Cojuangco) *ang itinuturo*. In the choice of (alleged gunman Rolando) Galman (a native of Nueva Ecija), for example, *bakit puro mga taga*-Central Luzon?" the congressman asked.

Yearly accusations

Rep. Gilbert Teodoro of Tarlac strongly rebuffed allegations linking his uncle, Cojuangco, to the Aquino assassination.

"Accusations against Mr. Cojuangco are nothing but blatant lies and malicious attempts by some to absolve themselves from a wrongdoing at the expense of the innocent," Teodoro said in a statement.

Teodoro said it was saddening that these unfounded accusations surface every year as the death anniversary of the senator neared.

"There was no evidence from past investigations that Mr. Cojuangco was involved in the Aquino assassination that happened 21 years ago. It is curious that such allegations come at a time when those convicted of the crime are appealing for presidential clemency," he said.

The double murder sparked a tumultuous series of events that led to the downfall of Marcos in 1986, propelling Aquino's widow to the presidency.

Martinez said that the affidavit he had filed with Bureau of Corrections Director Dionisio Santiago "is a true account of the incident which was not revealed during the first and second court hearings on the Aquino-Galman double murder case."

True account

Martinez said he had firsthand knowledge that Galman had been instructed by Gen. Romeo Gatan and Herminio Gosuico to kill Aquino on Aug. 21, 1983.

Martinez said Col. Romeo Ochoco, former deputy commander of the defunct Aviation Security Command, instructed him to monitor Galman's activities two days before the assassination.

On the morning Aquino was killed, Martinez and Galman met with Gatan, Gosuico and Ochoco at the Carlston Hotel in Parañaque.

The convicted soldier said he heard Gatan tell Galman "to do his job well or else Martinez will kill him."

He said Ochoco even tried to convince him to make Sgt. Rolando de Guzman, who was part of the group he organized upon the Avsecom head's order, the triggerman. But Martinez said he refused.

Martinez then recounted how De Guzman shot Galman after the latter shot the senator in the head at the Manila International Airport tarmac.

"Gatan, Gosuico and Galman were men of a close relative of ex-President Cory Aquino. I will name his name in the proper forum," Martinez said in his affidavit.

Corny but true

He also said Ochoco was "a man of Gen. Fabian Ver, then Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff."

"The reason why I kept this testimony in secret was because during those times I feared I would be liquidated," he said.

Martinez, who is now a pastor of a religious group, added: "I do these revelations because of the conviction of the Holy Spirit. It may sound corny but it is the truth."

NBP chaplain Robert Olaguer said the convicted soldiers "had always been prepared to give their statements."

"They said they would reveal the mastermind in the proper forum," Olaguer said.

Review affidavit

PAO chief Persida Rueda-Acosta said she would review the affidavit to determine if there was anything new in Martinez's claims that would merit a reopening of the case.

She said she would ask the Supreme Court to reopen the case if the evidence warranted it.

"But we are not aggressive about this," Acosta said.

She said the PAO was also looking for three witnesses who might be able to corroborate Martinez's claims.

"They might be able to shed more light on the conspiracy behind the killing," Acosta said.

Acosta is scheduled to go to the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa to get the affidavits of the 14 others who were convicted of having a hand in the double murder.

Besides Martinez, the other convicts in the double murder case still detained are Capt. Romeo Bautista and Sergeants Arnulfo Artates, Romeo Desolong, Ernesto Mateo, Rolando de Guzman, Ruben Aquino, Felizardo Taran and Cordova Estelo.

Also detained were the members of the boarding party who fetched Aquino from the plane—2nd Lt. Jesus Castro, Sgt. Claro Lat, TSgt. Filomeno Miranda, Sgt. Arnulfo de Mesa, C1C Mario Lazaga, and C1C Rogelio Moreno.

Former Avsecom chief Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio was also convicted but he died of cancer in prison.

Acosta said Martinez executed the affidavit in the hope that he and his fellow convicts might be paroled.

Lack of merit

On Aug. 3, the Supreme Court denied the convicts' petition to be released for "lack of merit."

As of last year, the convicts had served a total of 18 years in prison, including the time they were detained during their trial.

Under the law, prisoners sentenced to death or reclusion perpetua could not be paroled unless their sentences were commuted first, said Senior State Prosecutor Teresita Reyes Domingo, chair of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

"It has to be commuted. [Their petitions for parole] cannot be entertained without [their sentences] being commuted first," she said.

Domingo said even good conduct while in prison would have no effect unless the sentence of reclusion perpetua was commuted.

In August last year, the Aquino family turned down appeals from the convicts for the commutation of their double-life sentence.

Show remorse

Representative Aquino said that the convicts should first admit to killing his father.

"We told them that the barest minimum these soldiers can do is to admit what they have done and show remorse," Aquino said.

In his affidavit, Martinez still claimed that it was Galman who shot ex-Senator Aquino.

2 'unaccounted for' witnesses

Former Deputy Speaker and now Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez earlier said there were two "unaccounted for" military officers who could shed more light on the double-murder cases.

He identified them as former Col. Romeo Ochoco and Capt. Felipe Valerio.

As Tanodbayan, Gonzalez had prosecuted the case in the Sandiganbayan. He said Ochoco, who had been with the Presidential Security Command, was reportedly in Australia, and that Valerio, commander of the Aviation Security Command team that shot down Galman at the tarmac of the then Manila International Airport, might be in Canada.

The double murder case was initially investigated by the Fernando Commission, and subsequently by the Agrava Commission.

Acquitted in Marcos time

The accused had been tried in the Sandiganbayan under Justice Manuel Pamaran and acquitted in 1985, during the time of Marcos.

After Marcos was deposed and Ninoy's widow became the President, citizens petitioned the Supreme Court to reopen the case.

The case was again tried in a Special Division of the Sandiganbayan, which in 1990 found the 16 guilty. Twenty others were acquitted for lack of evidence. *With a report from Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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Bicol village . . .

From page A1

"*Naalintanga* (amazed)," was how another photographer described the gathering crowd.

Clueless

Villagers were clueless for the most part, Barangay Captain Angeline Bordonada admitted. From radio and television reports, they had heard of the abduction of two soldiers by the communist New People's Army, she said. But no one knew the captives were being held in the province, or that they were expected to be released in their town that day.

Bordonada had just come from Naga City and "was really surprised to see lots of media vehicles and cameramen from such companies as GMA 7 and ABS-CBN." She said representatives of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, who served as media coordinators that day, told her what was going on.

Shortly before 6 p.m., the two soldiers—1Lt. Rolando Fidelino and Pfc. Ronel Nemeño—arrived with their families and some government officials for a press briefing following the formal turnover in the nearby hills.

'Very simple'

Bordonada believed the event was nothing less than "historic."

Poblacion is a "very simple" community, the barangay captain said, with a population of 5,784 as of last year. Most of the townsfolk are farmers and fishermen. More than three hours by car from Naga City and accessible only through an uncemented road—traversing a mountainous terrain and overlooking the Pacific Ocean—the place is considered remote.

The visiting media men had come from Cagsawa Park in Daraga, Albay. They left at 11:30 a.m., drove through rugged roads, thick dust and over some muddy stretches, and reached their destination hungry and exhausted.

5-MONTH ORDEAL

Though it crossed their minds that the event could result in the military branding their village a rebel-infested area, majority of Poblacion residents were "thankful" for the brief episode in the limelight.

Blessing in disguise?

Quite a few turned out to sell dried fish and other foodstuff to the visitors, happily making some extra money.

A man in her mid-40s who has lived in Poblacion all his life said the event obviously concerned the whole country and was therefore important. "We are proud to be part of this," he said.

Benefit

More important, he told the INQUIRER, the nationwide media exposure could only benefit the village and, in fact, the whole municipality—maybe even all towns in the country like Presentacion.

"You see the condition of our roads?" he said. "We hope this will be one way for the government to see what people in remote areas have to endure."

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REMEMBERING QUEZON
Senator and Nacionalista Party president Manuel Villar honor party founder President Manuel Quezon along with Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte during rites Thursday celebrating the 126th birth anniversary of the late chief executive. JOAN BONDOC

MANILA COURTROOMS

Wanted: 14 RTC judges

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IN MANILA, empty courtrooms seem to lend truth to the perceived snail-paced justice system in the country.

And from the halls of the Manila Regional Trial Court (MRTC) echo the longing for new judges; 14 to be exact.

The MRTC has enough courtrooms but many are vacant, said Clerk of Court Jennifer dela Cruz-Buendia.

Of the city's 56 branches, 14 have been vacant for as long as six years after the judges that occupied them had either been promoted or gone into retirement.

Nine of the courtrooms lost their magistrates to retirement, three were promoted to the Court of Appeals, one judge was assigned to an international court of the United Nations, while another judge, Hermogenes Liwag of Branch 55, died in June 2003 due to a heart ailment.

The appointment of judges and Supreme Court justices is an exclusive function of the President, said Buendia.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who won a fresh mandate in May, has just shuffled the members of her cabinet. Now, Manila is hoping that she will look their way and give them new judges.

According to Buendia, the Judicial Bar Council has screened many applicants but the Palace has yet to make any appointments.

Two of the vacant courts, Branch 55 and 26, have been assigned temporary judges, while the 12 others share judges of other Manila courts, hearing the cases left pending when the salas were vacated.

As these courts await new judges, they are not given new load whenever new cases are raffled off twice a week.

Meanwhile, the time of acting judges attending to them are split between cases in their own courts and ones in their adopted courts.

"The judges are overburdened and they have other courts to attend to," said Buendia.

As a result, the 42 functioning courts carry heavy case loads. At Branch 13, a special drugs court whose judge was promoted to the CA in April 2002, 80 hearings are scheduled in a day under its acting presiding judge.

"We even held arraignment and pre-trial hearings at the Manila City Jail just so our pending cases would move. We hope new judges would be appointed soon," said Branch Clerk of Court Nelia Rosario. The court now has 931 pending cases.

Vendors block road to Caloocan school

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOR SEVERAL days, parents, students and churchgoers labored on their way to school and church in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City.

Vendors have occupied the yet unnamed main road leading to the Bagong Silang Elementary School and the Parish of the Sto. Niño, leaving no space for vehicles to pass.

Students, mostly children, were forced to walk, at times under the rain, for as far as 300 meters.

But their sacrifices could be over.

Informed of his constituents' plight, Mayor Enrico Echiverri told the INQUIRER yesterday that the vendors would be moved today to a market near the school.

Echiverri explained that confusion arose when he cleared vendors from the streets of Bagong Silang on Sunday by assigning them to one area. However, the area turned out to be the road going to the school and church.

Worse, the vendors set up stalls in the middle of the street.

The vendors even reportedly dumped garbage near the school, Parents and Teachers Association president Avelino Alcantara told the INQUIRER.

Bagong Silang Elementary School has 16,000 students.

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Sessions are held on Friday afternoons from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. and Saturdays from 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. for a period of five (5) weeks, commencing on September 24, 2004 ending on October 23, 2004, at the Training Rooms 1 to 3, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Manila.

For any inquiries, please call the Philippine Judicial Academy-Supreme Court, telephone numbers: 552-9517/552-9518. Registration forms may be downloaded at the Supreme Court Web Site (*www.supremecourt.gov.ph see announcements*).

Transport groups may ask for new fare hike

By Clarissa S. Batino and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TRANSPORT groups said yesterday that they would ask for an additional 75-centavos to P1 on the minimum fare should the price of diesel reach P21 per liter.

Zenaida Maranan, president of the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines (Fejodap) said jeepney groups had agreed to file a new fare hike petition before the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) should fuel prices continue to rise.

Diesel currently sells from P20.30 to P20.50 per liter.

Discount needed

"We would ask for a 75-centavo increase unless oil companies agree to grant us a discount of at least P1 per liter on diesel," said Maranan.

Fejodap is the country's largest transport group with more than 250,000 members nationwide.

Bus organizations will also wait for diesel to cost P21 a liter before filing a fare hike petition, revealed Alex Yague, president of the City and Provincial Buses Associations Alliance of the Philippines.

Reached for comment, LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista said that she would meet with transport groups next week to avert any fare hike petition. Bautista is attending a regional transport group meeting in Bali, Indonesia.

"We will hold a dialogue with them. We will have to know what they want. It is too early to act on another fare petition," said the LTFRB chief.

Maranan explained that in June, when the P1.50 minimum fare hike took effect, diesel was at P18.10 per liter. She said the price of fuel had gone up by more than P2 per liter since then.

P5.50 minimum

Jeepneys now charge P5.50 for the first 4 km and P1 for each succeeding kilometer. Ordinary buses increased their fare to P6 on the first 5 km.

Piston or the Pinag-isang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide urged the government to scrap the oil deregulation law and take over the operations of Petron Corp.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the members of which control half of the world's oil exports, had been unable to arrest rising prices despite increasing its production.

METROBRIEFS

No way for rail link

CALOOCAN City Mayor Enrico Echiverri said he would not allow any plan to connect the Metro Rail Transit and the Light Rail Transit if it would affect the Bonifacio Monument Circle. Instead, he is proposing an alternate route from Balintawak to A. Bonifacio then C3 Road, where the MRT North Avenue Station could be connected to the Fifth Avenue Station of the LRT. In a statement, Echiverri said the construction of an extended MRT line along Edsa would kill businesses and divide the city. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Accused vs. accused

PHILIPPE Marcelo, one of the accused in the killing of teller Candice Castro, yesterday denied that he had falsely implicated fellow accused Bebs Reyes in the incident. Marcelo filed yesterday before the Manila Prosecutors Office his counter-affidavit to the charges of libel, false testimony, perjury, unjust vexation and incriminatory machination filed against him by Reyes. Marcelo said Reyes' allegations could "not be given due course as we both are now charged before the Manila Regional Trial Court." *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Benefit for doc

PALS for P.A.L.S., a benefit concert for Edelmundo Dipasupil, a doctor stricken with amyotrophic lateral schlerosis or ALS, will be held at 7 p.m., Aug. 20, at the James Reuter Theater in St. Paul's College, Quezon City. It will feature Isay Alvarez, Jay Cayuca, The Company, Dulce, King, John Lesaca, The Opera, Tux, Robert Seña, Vernie Varga and the Whiplash Dancers. Dan Andrews and Mara Seguerra will emcee. Freddie Santos directs. The show aims to increase awareness about ALS.

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FACTS

- SCIONS of Jaworski and Yap families in shootout on June 21, 2004 allegedly over uncollected bets .
- Charges junked by Mandaluyong Prosecutors Office on Aug. 17
- Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes orders reinvestigation on Aug. 18

Jawo-Yap case not over

By Nelson F. Flores, Luige del Puerto and Christian V. Esguerra

CONCERNED with the growing disenchantment of the public with men in uniform, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday ordered a reinvestigation of the Jaworski-Yap shooting incident that took place in Mandaluyong City last June.

Government prosecutors early this week dismissed criminal charges against the scions of the two wealthy families because of alleged inadequacies in the police investigation.

"Unless there is a clear resolution of this high profile case, confidence in the Philippine National Police, the judicial system and the capacity of the government to deliver justice would be further eroded," Reyes said in a meeting with the INQUIRER editors and reporters on Wednesday.

At the same time, Reyes encouraged witnesses to come out. He also asked investigators to do their job without fear of retaliation, adding that they would be protected and given full backing by his office.

The Philippine National Police, on the other hand, said it was still looking for new witnesses and evidence.

"The investigation continues," Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, PNP spokesperson, told reporters. "But there should be new evidence and witnesses."

Acting Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez yesterday blamed sloppy police work for the dismissal by the Mandaluyong City Prosecutor's Office of alarm and scandal, illegal discharge of firearms, and malicious mischief charges filed by the police in June against Ryan and Ron Michael Jaworski, Elton and Mark Yap, and several John Does.

Gutierrez said the police should present more convincing evidence if the charges were to be appealed before her office.

The respondents were accused of turning the area behind the Saisaki Restaurant in East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, into a virtual war zone on the evening of June 21.

The Jaworskis are sons of former senator and basketball legend Robert Jaworski, while the Yaps belong to a prominent Mandaluyong family.

Although police said they could not confirm it, they believe the shootout was sparked by a quarrel over uncollected bets on the results of the National Basketball Association finals amounting to P30,000.

No follow-up

Prosecutor Elenita C. Dimaguila noted in her resolution that the police failed to follow up leads given by witnesses.

Police had concluded that the Yaps and the Jaworskis arrived at Florida Street at around 8 p.m., met in the middle of the street, and traded shots. Police maintained they could not determine who had fired the shots, and which camp had fired first.

"The conclusion of the PNP investigators regrettably does not appear to conform to the evidence on hand, particularly those coming from their informants, who were at the site when the shooting incidents happened," Dimaguila's resolution read.

Ryan Jaworski was the only one wounded in the shootout that also damaged vehicles belonging to Jaworski, Yap and that of PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolome and Senior Supt. Benjamin Landrito. The two police officials were in the Greenhills area when the shootout occurred. Both the Jaworski and Yap camps insisted they were unarmed.

Police could not establish who had actually fired guns, and none of the witnesses could identify who shot who. The shootout reportedly lasted 10 minutes. At least 82 spent shells were found in the crime scene.

Meanwhile, a police source said the security personnel of Bartolome and Landrito should also be investigated, adding that the aides "knew more than what the investigators knew."

The two officials, however, said they would no longer pursue the malicious mischief complaint they had filed against Ryan and Elton since the charges had been dismissed.

"We'll just charge it to experience," Landrito told the INQUIRER.

Bartolome said he had already brought his Toyota Revo to the car shop for repair work, and Landrito added that he was inclined to follow Bartolome's lead.

The dismissal of the case, considered a test case for wealthy people running afoul of the law, might not have been a surprise for Senior Supt. Ericson Velasquez, Mandaluyong police chief.

During the investigation in June, Velasquez admitted to the INQUIRER that the case would just be dismissed unless witnesses surfaced and pointed to the Yaps and Jaworkis as those involved in the shootout.

All the police had in their hands were a couple of valet parking attendants who claimed they only saw vehicles that were later found to be owned by the Jaworskis and Yaps.

Common effort

"We can always re-open the investigation," said Velasquez. "It has been dismissed, but it does not mean it is over."

He said if new, stronger evidence comes up, or other witnesses volunteer information, the police would refile the charges.

Antigun and anticrime advocates said they were "disgusted" and "outraged" at the turn of events.

"It's the surest way to lose confidence in the government," said Nandy Pacheco, a longtime antigun advocate.

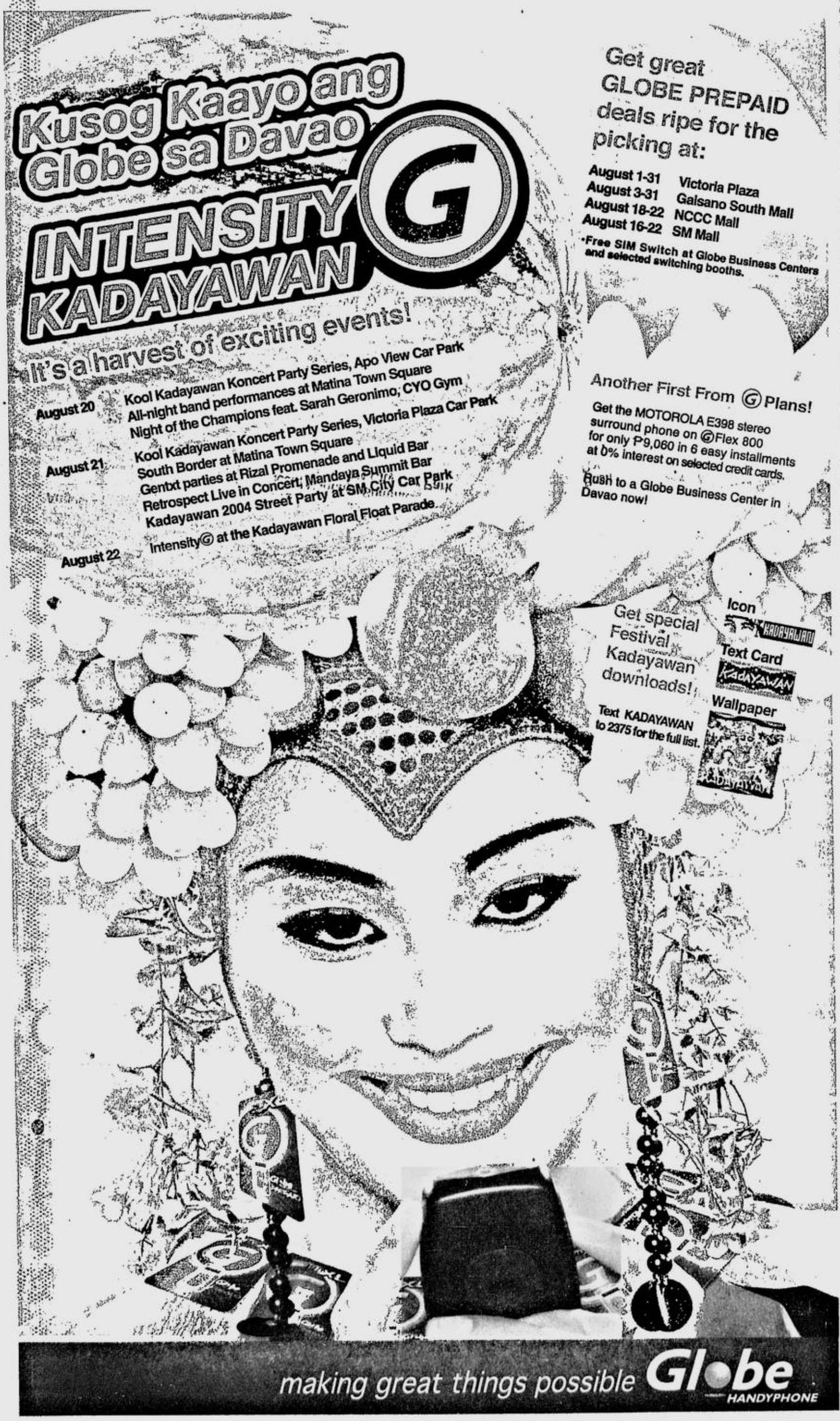
Dante Jimenez of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption said the dismissal of the charges is not yet the end of the case. It could still be revived as long as the police could build a stronger case, he said.

The police vigorously defended themselves from accusations of incompetence, and insinuations of a whitewash.

Velasquez said it was the citizenry that failed this time, not his investigators.

"We did our job. But justice is an endeavor not just of the police, but also of the community," he said. "In this case, no one wanted to help us," he said.

The police said that instead of talking to investigators, the Yaps and the Jaworskis gave interviews to the media. "No one wanted to press charges. Put yourself in our shoes. What could you do?" Velasquez added. ***With Philip C. Tubeza***



GOLF: US Amateur Championship; 3 p.m. (r) and tomorrow at 1 a.m.; ESPN—Take another look at the second round then catch the quarterfinals live from New York.

World Golf Championships NEC Invitational; 1 p.m. (r) and tomorrow at 3 a.m.; Sports Plus—Check out the replay of Day 1 then watch Day 2 unfold live.

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Compiled by L. Mangulat

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SWIMMING Olympic Aquatic Center
(Men's 1500-meter Freestyle, Heats; 3:31 p.m.) **Miguel Mendoza**

Cito hopes Obet stays at Philsoc

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—The trip to Athens and his march with the athletes during the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games will not be for naught for outgoing Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan.

That is, if he is retained as honorary chairman of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Committee (Philsoc), the body that will organize the Southeast Asian Games in Manila next year.

"It's all up to the President," said Celso "Cito" Dayrit, president of both the Philsoc and Philippine Olympic Committee. "It's her call. Everything depends on his relationship with the President. What's important is that whoever sits there as honorary chairman will have the full support and the mandate of the President."

A few days after marching with the Philippine delegation during the opening ceremonies here, Pagdanganan was replaced as tourism secretary by Cebu Rep. Ace Durano.

The former Bulacan governor and agrarian reform secretary was appointed head of the Philippine Investment and Trade Corp. (PITC).

As honorary chairman of Philsoc, Pagdanganan came to

CITO/ A26

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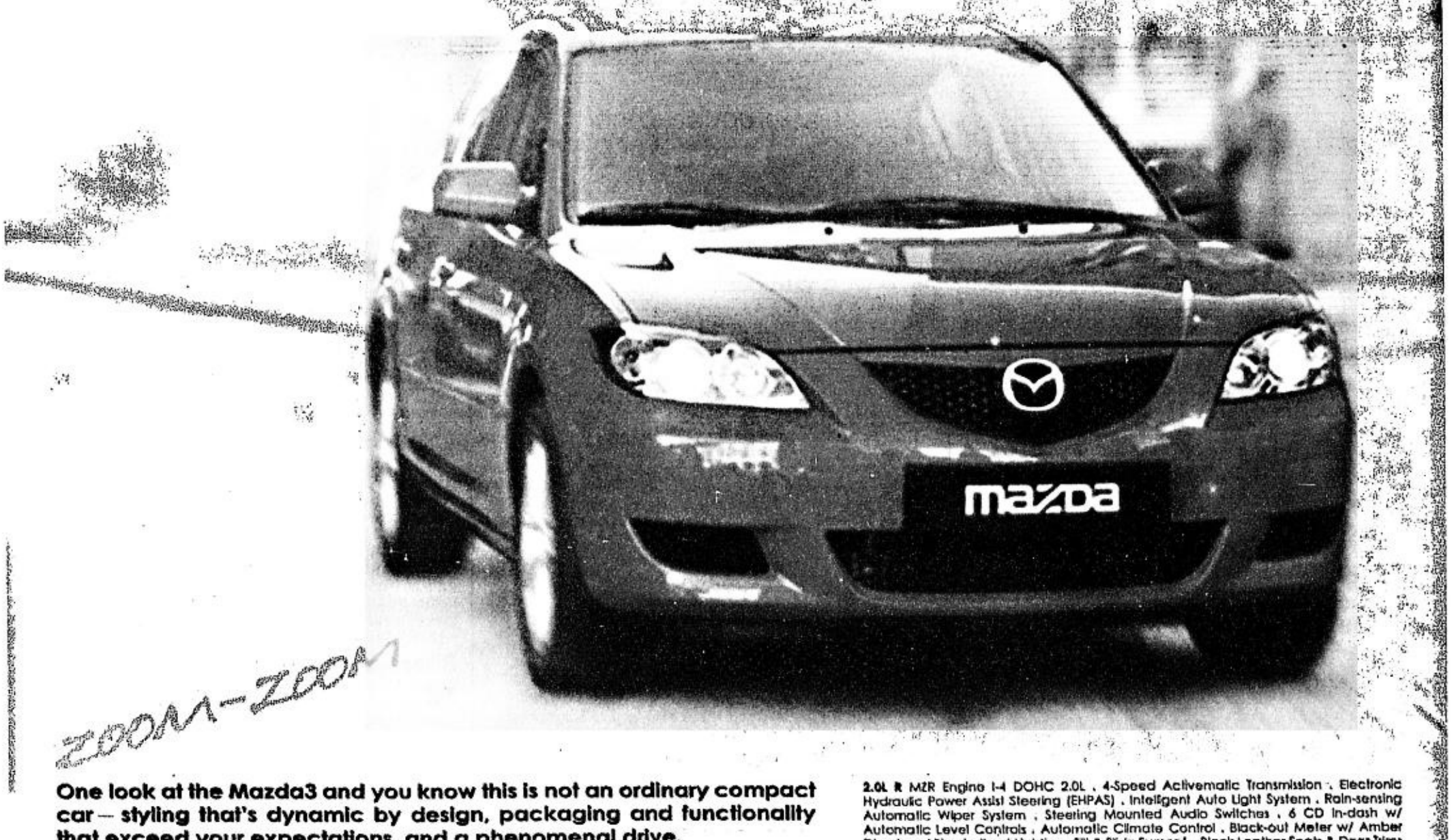

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Cito hopes Obet stays at Philsoc

From page A25

Athens to observe preparations and conduct of the Olympic Games. But he returned to Manila to the announcement that he has been replaced.

Dayrit said he is still batting for Pagdanganan to be retained by the government as its point man in the SEA Games committee.

"Personally, I hope he is retained," said Dayrit. "As long as he has the mandate and support of the President and he can raise the budget for the SEA Games, I'm sure he can do the job. I'm not saying he's the only one who can do it, but we've done a lot of work already. He is very enthusiastic about the SEA Games.

Dayrit said Pagdanganan had anticipated his replacement as tourism secretary. But he added that being out of the tourism department is not necessarily a disadvantage for Pagdanganan in terms of heading the Philsoc.

"In fact, it may even be an advantage because I'm sure he would have more time for the SEA Games," Dayrit said.

Dayrit is president of Philsoc, which was organized and registered as a private group to organize the SEA Games. Pagdanganan was invited to join the committee as tourism secretary to represent the government, which had the full responsibility of funding the Games.

On Philsoc's recommendation, President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed him to the Philsoc in the middle of this year following his appointment as tourism secretary.

Dayrit expressed the hope that Pagdanganan's new appointment "would not affect what we have done so far" in the preparation for the Southeast Asian Games, the biennial sports event hosted by Vietnam last year.

The Philippines hosted the Games twice, in 1981 and 1991, and was scheduled to host it again in 2001. But for economic reasons, it was moved to Brunei.

HARRY Tañamor (right) lands a punch on Tajikistan's Sherali Dostiev's face during the light flyweight boxing preliminaries in the Athens Olympics. AP

Pangilinan achieves goal of improving best times

ATHENS—Fil-American swimmer Jaclyn Pangilinan achieved her goal in the 28th Olympic Games Wednesday when she surpassed her best time in the 200-meter breaststroke competition, in the process shattering the Philippine record at the Aquatic Center here.

The 18-year-old, New Jersey-based Pangilinan clocked 2 minutes, 33.38 seconds to improve her personal best of 2:34.00 and erase her national mark of 2:35.01.

Pangilinan beat anew Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Siow Yi Ting of Malaysia, who clocked 2:33.79, and Singapore's Nicolette Teo, who timed 2:38.17.

Pangilinan's American coach, Ilan Noach, was elated by her performance.

"That's what she came here for. I'm absolutely proud of her," said Noach, who came here with Jaclyn's parents, Florante and Audrey, and 11 others to cheer for the Fil-Am.

Pangilinan topped her heat and ranked 20th in a field of 31 as she completed her first Olympic stint with personal success. She also broke her RP 100-meter breaststroke mark of 1:12.82 last Sunday by clocking 1:12.47.

Another RP splasher, 20-year-old Miguel Molina, completed his fourth and final event in his first Olympic outing by covering the 200 individual medley in 2:05.28.

However, Molina failed to improve his personal best of 2:04.94.

"I felt great although I did not do too well in the breaststroke," said Molina.

PANGILINAN swims in 200-m breaststroke. AP

SAMSUNG

Mendoza plunges to action

Targets Philippine record

ATHENS—Good-looking swimmer Miguel Mendoza tries to surpass his Philippine record in the 1,500-meter Friday when he finally makes his appearance in the 28th Olympic Games at the Aquatics Center here.

"That's my main objective. That's precisely why I'm training hard so early," said the 22-year-old Mendoza Thursday just before he worked out at 6:30 a.m.

This is the second Olympic stint for Mendoza, a University of Georgia student majoring in MIS. He also carried the RP colors four years ago in Sydney, Australia.

"I want to go out with a bang," said the former Xavier School splasher, who hinted that this "might be my last Olympics. I might have to start working once I finish school and leave swimming behind."

Mendoza's national record is 15 minutes 46 seconds. "I think I have a good chance of surpassing it," he said. "I feel better, I'm well-rested and I'm in better shape than I was four years ago."

Mendoza won the 1500 freestyle gold and shared the 4x200 freestyle team gold in the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam last December. He also took a silver in the 400 freestyle, where he clocked a respectable time of 4:01.99 when he swam it last Saturday as a warm-up for his 1500 performance.

The 5-foot-7 tanker also holds the national record of 3:40.59 in the 400 freestyle.

So far, only Miguel Molina and Fil-American Jaclyn Pangilinan had managed to better national swimming marks. Both had already completed their assignments here.

ATHENS 2004

Molina covered the 200 breaststroke in 2:19.19 to erase the 12-year-old standard of 2:20.37 held by Lee Concepcion.

Pangilinan timed 1:12.47 and 2:33.38 in the 100 and 200 breaststroke to wipe out here 1:12.82 and 2:35.01 national records, respectively. The 18-year-old Fil-American from New Jersey also topped her personal best of 2:34 in the 200.

The two other RP swimmers who had finished their events here—Raphael Timmy Chua and James Bernard Walsh both submitted mediocre times.

Chua clocked 1:06.37 in the 100 breaststroke, way off his personal best of 1:04.93, while Walsh timed 2:06.76, also below his best of 2:04.13.

Except for Chua, all swimmers are training in the US under different American coaches. Pangilinan's and Walsh's mentors both came to watch them swim here.

PAUL Hamm of the US shows his championship form in the parallel bars during the men's gymnastics individual all-around final of the 2004 Olympics. AP

New Philsoc chair looms with Pagdanganan's exit

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WITH Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan out as Tourism head, who will be the next chair of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee?

Pagdanganan yielded the top Tourism post to Cebu Rep. Joseph Ace Durano and took over as chair of the Philippine International Trading Corporation last Wednesday in the revamp of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet.

By tradition, the Tourism czar should also be the Philsoc chair the to maximize the tourism opportunity presented by the multination, multi-event SEA Games, which will be hosted by the Philippines next year.

No less than 5,000 foreign athletes, coaches and officials from 10 countries in the Asean region are seeing action in the biennial sportsfest.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit had earlier said the position of Philsoc chair is reserved for a Malacañang choice.

There's still no word on whether Pagdanganan will relinquish the Philsoc post to the former Cebu congressman although he has already started working as the chief planner of the country's SEA games hosting since May.

In fact, Pagdanganan has just returned to the country after accompanying the Filipino athletes who are competing in the Athens Olympics, where he hoped to get some pointers on how the Greek government staged the Olympics.

But POC insiders said any announcement regarding the new Philsoc chief will have to wait after the Olympics, when top sports officials like Dayrit and Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain have returned.

The possibility of having a new chair comes on the heels of the Philsoc's announcement early this week that the Department of Budget and Management can only provide P30 million of the projected P1 billion budget for the 2005 Games.

SPORTSWATCH

Davao booters gain under-19 finals

DAVAO blanked Laguna, 4-0, yesterday to advance to the finals of the inaugural PFF-SuperFerry National Under-19 Women's Football Championship at the Marikina City Sports Center. Cheered on by a crowd of 4,000 that included Philippine Sports Commissioner William Ramirez, the Davaoeñas struck first through Este Mace Vilela in the 45th minute, then scored thrice in the final 12 minutes to gain the first finals slot of the event co-organized by the Philippine Football Federation and the Marikina City Football Association. Davao will face the winner of the other semifinal between powerhouse National Capital Region and Negros Occidental, which were still playing at presstime, for the title in the tournament backed by Marikina Mayor Marides C. Fernando and the city government. Laguna managed to hold the girls from Mindanao scoreless for another 23 minutes before its defense broke down again.

Enduro adventure race flags off today

OUTDOOR adventure sports buffs will again display their wares in the second staging of the Enduro San Mig Light Adventure Race Manila leg today. The two-day event, which flags off at 12 noon in Eastwood, Libis, Quezon City, has accommodated a total of 80 three-member teams. All teams will start en masse at the kick off and end point at the Central Plaza in Eastwood City where they will go through all stations in a non-sequential system. Up for grabs is a total cash prize worth P200,000 plus other special awards from San Mig Light. The champion in the elite category of this event, organized by the X10 Events, will receive P75,000, while the winner in the fun category will take home P35,000. The event is composed of biking, swimming and running rolled into one.

Bisera paces Floro Nival Memorial by 2

DAVAO-BASED Pablo Bisera fired a one-under par 67 for a two-stroke lead in the opening round of the 1st Floro Nival Memorial golf tournament Wednesday at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club. Club professionals Roger Antonio and Lito Casas carded 69s while Rey Alit was at a solo fourth with a 70, one shot over Eddie de Leon. Fabian del Rosario was the only player who managed to match par and together with Juanito Pagunsan, who had a 74, all but clinched their professional senior status even with one more round to go in the tournament presented by Electrobus Consolidated, the Philippine representative of Callaway Golf USA. Some 100 amateurs take the plunge in the pro-am side of the event today.

PCC hosts 3-cock derby tonight

THE FINEST gamebirds will be fielded in another big-time 3-cock derby tonight at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. More than 50 fights will be featured in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Complex-or 3000 and Sagupaan Mite Free. This will be the last derby for the 2003-2004 cock season, according to pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric de la Rosa and Butchoy Olano. At stake is a cash prize of P150,000 with Jun and Bert Arizobal as hosts. Entry fee is P5,500. Meanwhile, the Annual Richard L. Bates 7-Stag Derby is set Wednesday and Friday. Call 8431890, 8431746 and 8166750 for details.

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Race 5--1. Silver Music 2. Incrediview 3. Close Account 4. Scrap of Gold
Race 6--1. Tatler Cover 2. L'islet Sur Mer 3. Cryptorose 4. Footwear 5. Bonjour Baby
Race 7--1. Nothing to Declare 2. Hello Happy 3. Forever Joyce 4. Itzmedahlin
Race 8--1. West Bound 2. High Octane/Hellfire 3. Propensity 4. Anytime Anywhere/Rumaragasa
Race 9--1. Queen of D Jungle 2. Shuttle's Rianne 3. Jackpot 4. Paradise Water/Sky Wind 6.Legitimo

Divine intervention

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I WROTE this some 10 hours before Romeo Brin fought his second bout last night in Olympic boxing. And before I did this, I prayed hard for Brin to win again so that Brin will be "just" two wins shy of the medal column. It goes without saying that I also pray for our other Olympic athletes to win their matches.

I always start my prayer with: "Dear Lord Jesus Christ, good morning. If it's OK with You, please make _____ (name of athlete and in this case, Romeo Brin) him/her a winner today. If not OK, fine. I will not take it against You. Never. As God, I know that You always know what's best for everybody. Thank You very much, Sir/Boss/Tsip. In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen."

I close my eyes while praying, the way I do when my wife gives me the goodnight kiss.

I do my praying inside this two-windowed room in my house where I usually pound my Toshiba laptop trying to churn out columns for this newspaper, which has been part of my life since 1986 through its founder, Eggie Apostol. I have a telephone in my "Orange Room" that I use to e-mail my columns to the INQUIRER.

And speaking of Eggie, I offer my condolences to her as her husband, the good-natured, very amiable Mang Peping, had passed away a few days back. I had, on several occasions, had the chance to chat with Mang Peping. And what a modest man he was. He will be terribly missed.

Also, in case you still don't know, I wrote this knowing that Harry Tañamor had won his first Olympic fight in Greece, which was held around 1:40 a.m. yesterday, Manila time. I made sure I wouldn't miss watching it on NBN through Dream Satellite TV as I had set my alarm clock at 1:15 a.m.

Before the fight, I had this feeling Tañamor would win, not only because the authoritative Sports Illustrated had said Tañamor had the best chance to win a medal (bronze) from among our four Filipino boxers, but also because Harry owns a sterling record in international competitions. In fact, with due respect, I am praying hard that Sports Illustrated would be proven wrong and that Tañamor would win more than a bronze medal. My prayer is for him to win the gold. When that happens, it will snap the country's 80-year-old search for a first-ever Olympic gold.

We had been that close to it—Anthony Villanueva winning the boxing silver in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and Onyok Velasco repeating the trick in the 1996 Atlanta Olympiad.

We had been quite close to it again in the 2000 Sydney Olympics when Arlan Lerio led his opponent by two points with seconds remaining. But failing to get the signal from his corner that he was ahead, Lerio still slugged it out toe-to-toe instead of just dancing away from his opponent in the fourth and last round. Unfortunately, he got tagged successively as time was expiring to lose the bout by a point, missing a golden chance to barge into the medal column. I was there covering the fight, and while NBN's Patricia Bermudez slumped her head on my shoulder crying a river, I don't know if I had shed a tear or two myself.

But as the saying goes, that's all water under the bridge now. Needless to say, I had also prayed for Lerio to win then.

But prayers granted or not, OK fine. As I said, if Brin didn't make it "through the night" last night, there's still Tañamor to latch our hopes on. To paraphrase a saying, "Let our collective prayers storm the gates of heaven."

Please, Dear God?

***

FASTBREAK. The winner today in the HSBC Golf tournament at the Manila Golf Club will receive two plane tickets to England from HSBC chief executive officer Warner Manning. The tickets are for a ringside view of the HSBC World Match Play in Surrey's Wentworth Golf Club in October. The defending champion is Ernie Els. Good luck to all the participants.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Athletes with disability need help

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

MEMBERS of the 13th Congres, in particular sports-minded Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, who is also a former PSC commissioner, should consider filing a bill for medal winners of the Paralympic Games similar to Republic Act 9064 which grants hefty cash rewards and lifetime benefits to Olympics, Asian and SEA Games medalists.

I find it ironic that while normal and able-bodied athletes are rewarded for winning medals in the Olympics, Asian and SEA Games, there is no law that similarly rewards the achievements of these gritty athletes with disabilities. Where is justice and fairness here?

Powerlifter Adeline Dumapong-Ancheta, a multi-awarded veteran internationalist, who won a bronze at the 2000 Sydney Paralympics, and Agustin Kitan, a 28-year-old Baguio City hopeful, trained and prepared just as hard as their counterparts in the national team, the best of whom are seeing action in the ongoing 2004 Athens Games.

With little fanfare and a meager stipend from the government, Dumapong-Ancheta and Kitan will soon leave for the Greek capital where they will carry the country's colors in the 12th Athens Paralympics two weeks after this year's Summer Olympics.

Now 30 years old, Dumapong-Ancheta said in an interview that she's feeling some pressure because she is a past medal winner. "I was behind in my training because it wasn't continuous. I really don't know about my chances in Athens."

Powerlifting coach Ramon Debuque lamented the absence of a sustained training program and lack of funds, adding that, "They don't have any chance." He suggested a more reasonable budget that would enable the paralympians to train year-round. "Dumapong-Ancheta and Kitan are both dedicated and very competitive, giving their best in training and actual competitions."

Of the two paralympians, Kitan, a polio victim like Dumapong-Ancheta, will find himself in a more difficult spot because the level of competition in the men's division is higher. But he is undaunted.

To prepare for Athens, Kitan, who now lives in Cogeo, Rizal, uses his wheelchair in traveling from his place to the MRT station in Santolan along Marcos Highway, a distance of about 7 km. Then he negotiates another kilometer from Cubao to his training venue near the Ramon Magsaysay High School. Kitan is happy and looking forward to his trip to Athens, this being his first time to travel out of Asia. He won a bronze medal during a tournament held in Hanoi last December.

As the name implies, the Paralympic Games are parallel to the Olympic Games. Held after the Olympics proper, the Paralympic Games are supervised by the International Paralympic Committee, a counterpart of the International Olympic Committee.

The Paralympic Games grew out of a small sports meeting held in 1948 for the disabled—mostly paraplegic ex-servicemen. Sir Ludwig Guttman, the Father of Sport for People with Disability, and an English neurosurgeon at Stoke-Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury, England, organized the 1948 International Wheelchair Games to coincide with the 1948 London Olympic Games.

Since 1960 in Rome, the Paralympic Games have grown dramatically. Some 400 athletes from 23 countries took part in Sydney in 2000, and the same number (or bigger) is expected to compete in this year's Athens Paralympics.

"The Paralympic athletes are the true Olympians," an avid follower once said, "because of their grit and exceptional ability to push the envelope of human endurance. And I've found again and again that very quickly my fellow spectators start to see these athletes for the sportsmen they truly are. In the Paralympics, the focus on the athletes' disability goes away very quickly."

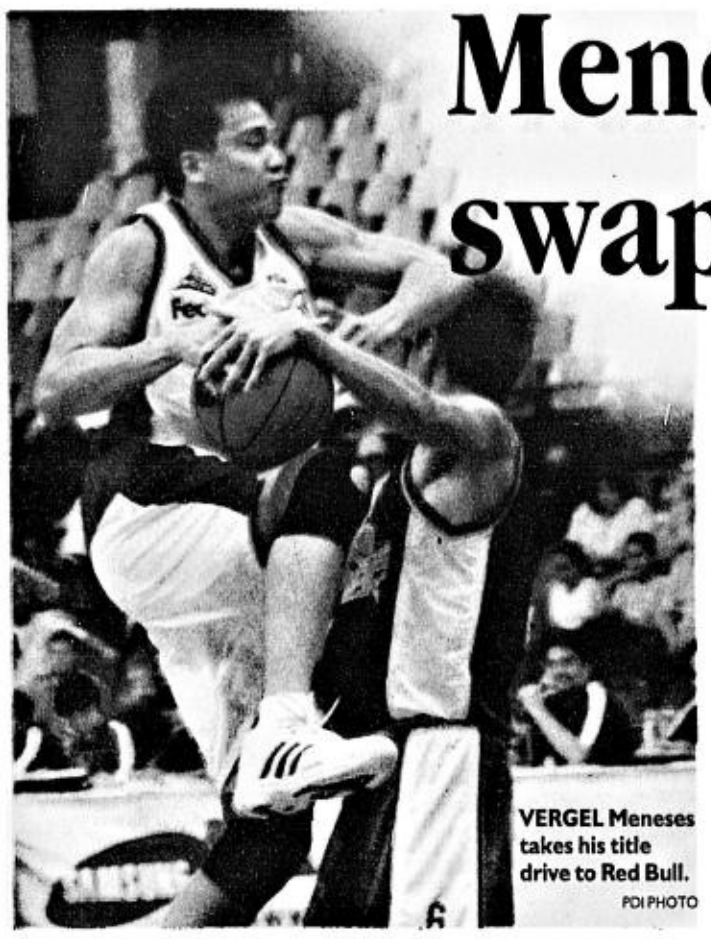
For surely, the Paralympic Games is the elite competition for the world's top athletes with a disability. The passion and determination of the paralympians will inspire the world as they take part in Athens for this year's 12th edition of the Games.

***

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN MLQ? I noticed that there was little fanfare from the sports community to mark the 126th birthday of President Manuel L. Quezon yesterday. This is a sad reflection on our sports leaders, most of whom are enjoying the sights and sounds of the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Among others, Quezon became the first elected Filipino president of the defunct Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation (PAAF) in 1916, forerunner of the Philippine Olympic Committee. Quezon held that position until 1935. During his term, Quezon sent the first Philippine delegation to the Olympic Games, a two-man team composed of sprinter David Nepomuceno and official Dr. Regino Yllanan, to the 1924 Paris Games. It was also during his term that the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, then the most modern in Asia, was completed in 1936. Quezon also regularly attended the NCAA basketball tournament where he rooted for Letran while his children—Baby, Nini and Nonong—cheered for La Salle.

Meneses-Se swap sealed



VERGEL Meneses takes his title drive to Red Bull. PDI PHOTO

By June Navarro

VERGEL Meneses has been longing for a Philippine Basketball Association crown for almost a decade and he hopes to get it with the Red Bull Barakos, who obtained the "Aerial Voyager" from the FedEx Express Wednesday night in exchange for Homer Se.

"It's been a long time since I won a championship and I hope to do it with Red Bull," said the 6-foot-3 Meneses, who won three PBA titles in his 13-year career, the last one with Swift Hotdogs in the 1995 All-Filipino Cup.

The former Jose Rizal College star also captured his only Most Valuable Player award that year but has won four all-star MVP trophies.

"I want to win a championship before I retire. My salary increased dramatically when I won the MVP but ironically I haven't gotten a PBA title since," said Meneses, who agreed to a pay cut just to play for the Barakos.

Meneses is entitled to a maximum salary of P350,000 next year, but agreed to a lesser, undisclosed amount until the 2006 season. Se inked a three-and-a-half year deal with FedEx worth P11 million.

Meanwhile, San Miguel traded reserve Marlon Legaspi to Shell Turbochargers for the 6-foot-9 Eric Canlas.

Casas cousin paces Samsung golf tour

DAVAO—Unheralded Ranil Gilmada fired the only sub-par round, a one-under-par 71, to grab a three-stroke lead in the first round of the fourth elimination leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Apo Golf Club Course.

The 23-year-old cousin of golf standout Cassius Casas had nines of 34-37 to steal the limelight from favored bets Jay Bayron and Louie Dakudao, who opened with a 74 and 76, respectively.

Jun Jun Grandeza shot a 77 to lead Class A, followed by Joel Yamyamin at 78 while Oscar Lopez, father of noted teaching pro Bong, and Radel Sakaluran both had 79s.

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2004 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship

FINALISTS

NCR Leg

August 7 & 8, 2004
Cyberzone, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

Juniors Division

- Rey Jomar M. Magallanes - University of the East (Manila)
- Ivan Gil O. Biag - Philippine Christian University (Cavite)
- Melvin M. Palomata - San Sebastian College-Recoletos (Manila)
- Ellan F. Asuela - Bata National High School (Bacolod)

Kiddies Division

- Loren Brigham R. Lacaste - Damortis Elementary School (La Union)
- Jan Jodilyn P. Fronda - Philippine Christian University (Manila)
- Revin G. Vasallo - San Sebastian College-Recoletos (Manila)
- Eugene M. Samonte - Tenement Elementary School (Manila)

All FINALISTS will compete in the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship Grand Finals to be held from August 27 to 29, 2004 at Cyberzone, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Dutchman joins swimming elite

NETHERLANDS' superstar Pieter van den Hoogenband, known as the Flying Dutchman, celebrates after winning the 100 freestyle gold and making it inside a select circle of swimming greats in the Athens Olympics. AP

Fil-Am helps US relay team shatter old Olympic record

ATHENS—Pieter van den Hoogenband won the men's 100-meter freestyle at the Athens Olympics on Wednesday to become just the third man to win swimming's premier race on two occasions.

The Flying Dutchman retained the title he won in Sydney in 48.17 seconds but just failed to beat the world record he set in Sydney four years ago, although two other records fell.

The United States broke the oldest world record in swimming to win the women's 4x200 freestyle relay and claim their sixth gold medal in the pool.

Australia's Jodie Henry smashed the women's 100 freestyle world record in the semifinals.

Japan's Kosuke Kitajima captured his second gold by easily winning the 200 breaststroke four days after he took the 100 while Otylia Jedrzejczak won the women's 200 butterfly to become Poland's first Olympic swimming champion.

Van den Hoogenband joined Johnny Weissmuller and Alexander Popov as the only men to successfully defend the 100 freestyle title with a perfectly timed swim, hitting the front in the final two strokes.

South African Roland Schoeman finished second in 48.23 after turning for home well in front.

"I'm not sure when I caught him, I was in a kind of trance, in a flow, doing my job and not thinking," said Van den Hoogenband.

Schoeman was philosophical about coming so close to a gold only to be denied in the last few meters.

"People might say I lost the gold medal but I see it as winning the silver," said the 24-year-old.

Ian Thorpe finished third in 48.56, flashing home from sixth at the halfway mark after winning the 200-400 freestyle double earlier.

The US quartet of Natalie Coughlin, Carly Vollmer, Dana Vollmer and Kaitlin Sandeno wiped the last East German record from the books with a combined time of seven minutes 53.42 seconds.

COUGHLIN AP

The old mark of 7:55.47 was set exactly 17 years ago to the day but was doomed from the moment Coughlin, who won the 100 backstroke gold, raced through the lead-off almost three seconds under world record pace. China finished second and Germany third.

"Before we started the race I didn't realize the historic significance of the record," said Coughlin, whose mother is from the Philippines.

Henry, who anchored Australia to gold in the 4x100 relay on Saturday, sliced 0.14 seconds off the previous mark of 53.66 set by her compatriot, Libby Lenton, at the Australian championships earlier this year to qualify more than half a second ahead of defending champion Inge de Bruijn.

Jedrzejczak came through strongly to score a close victory over Petria Thomas in the 200 butterfly final after the Australian beat her for the 100 on Sunday.

The Pole clocked 2:06.05, outside her own 2:05.78 world mark set at the European championships in Berlin in August 2002.

"It's my first gold medal in the Olympic Games. It's not a world record but I'm still happy," Jedrzejczak said.

Japan's Kitajima, angered at American accusations he had used an illegal dolphin kick during his 100 victory on the weekend, led all the way to win the 200 breaststroke gold in 2:09.44. *Reuters*

Geisler confident in Athens

ATHENS—Veteran Filipino taekwondo fighter Donald Geisler thinks now is the right time to strike in the Olympic Games.

"I'm better prepared now than in Sydney four years ago," says Geisler. "And my confidence level is quite high."

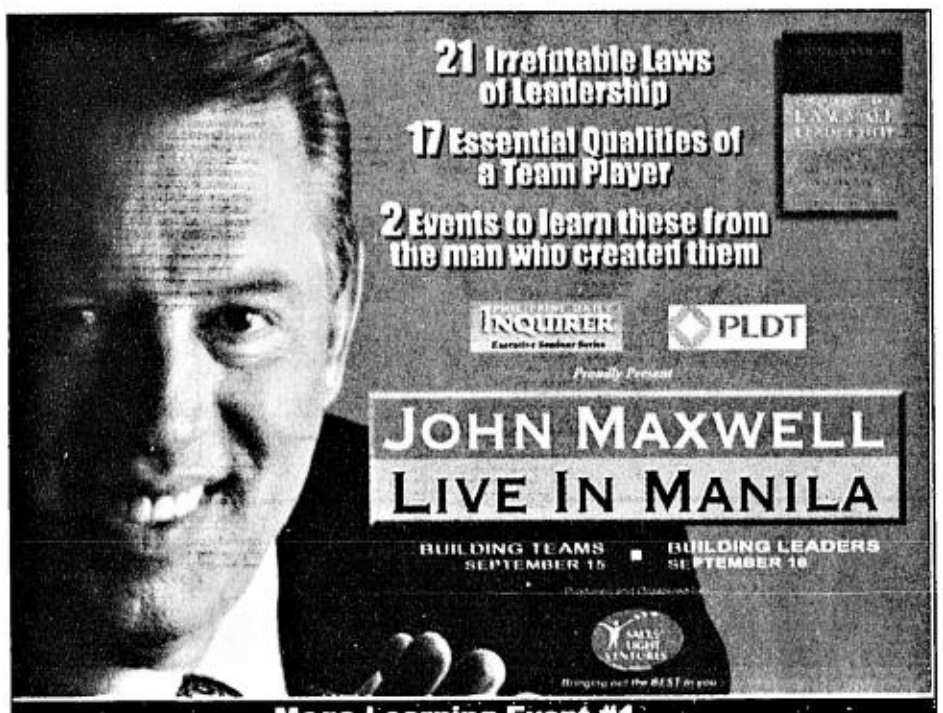
The 25-year-old veteran aims to bounce back from his heart-breaking first-round loss in the Sydney Olympics.

"The field is tough, but I believe I can go all the way to the medal round," he said. "I didn't like the way I lost then (in Sydney). I finished in a tie with my Swedish rival and I thought I delivered the more solid blows. But the referee declared him winner by superiority."

Geisler is happy that this time, the international (taekwondo) body decided to amend the rules on a tied bout. "Instead of letting the referee decide, the World Taekwondo Federation will now have the deadlock broken through a sudden-death, where the first to score a point wins," Geisler explained.

A silver medalist in the 1998 World Cup competition in Germany and two-time silver winner in the Asian championships, Geisler credits the team's Korean coach, Tae Hyung Kim, for providing him new techniques and making him more aggressive.

"I'm in top shape, having trained for 75 days in Seoul," adds the 6-foot-1 Geisler. "I'm determined to give this competition my best shot."



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A spoon, not a spear, Payla wielded

BARE EYE
Recah Trinidad

THEY are teammates but RP boxers Harry Tañamor and Violito Payla fight as though they don't know each other.

They share camp and obviously are friends.

They train, eat, sleep together.

But the results of their bouts in Athens tend to show they don't talk to each other.

The two—strongest hopes for an RP boxing medal in the current Olympiad—form a stunning contrast.

They are as distinct as sunshine and rain, different as good and bad weather.

***

Tañamor, picked by Sports Illustrated to land a medal in Athens, lent a little sunshine to the RP delegation with a fierce victory in his first bout.

The feat had somewhat lessened the gloom brought in by Payla's defeat against a foe he had defeated in two previous tournaments.

Tañamor won because, other than his skills, he also used a lot of head.

Payla lost because, stuck with a mindless, swinging style, he fought practically blind.

***

They share the same benefits and definitely are handled by responsible coaches.

Tañamor, with proper piloting, shifted gears, adjusted well when defeat threatened.

He scored sharp punches and celebrated after a sensational windup.

Payla jumped in early, dug in without first looking around.

Very predictable and uptight, he crashed like a misdirected aircraft in the second round.

***

It's like this. Fighting inside the ring, mainly in the Olympics, also requires the ability to think and concentrate.

Doom awaits a boxer who works like a locomotive running on a single track and heading toward a single station.

Tañamor availed himself of an open option and shifted direction in the final round.

He delivered the goods from outside and connected.

Payla, despite promises of newfound sharpness from his handlers, moved in with a wild man's club, straight from the cave.

He became a willing target, ended up a complete disaster.

***

Well, there was a vow from his coach that Payla, a notorious slammer, would be a brighter, sharper boxer in Athens.

That never happened.

Instead, it was the cornermen of Tulashboy Doniyorov, the Uzbek flyweight Payla had dominated and mastered in Busan and Palawan, who produced sharpness.

Promising to wield a spear, Payla visibly showed up with a big spoon.

Yes, with no resolution whatsoever, the mindless, defenseless pug succeeded in spoon-feeding his foe with generous scoring chances.

The handlers of the Uzbek winner did their homework.

Payla's handlers did not do theirs.

It was sickening, short of a swindle.

But we are not sure we won't be seeing Payla again in the Beijing Olympiad.

ATHENS SUMMER OLYMPICS MEDAL TALLY

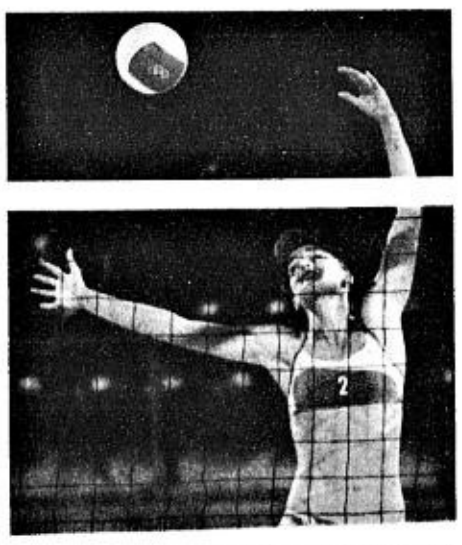
Country	G	S	B	Total
China	11	7	4	22
United States	10	10	9	29
Japan	8	3	2	13
Australia	6	4	6	16
Ukraine	5	1	1	7
Germany	4	2	5	11
Russia	3	7	7	17
Italy	3	4	2	9
France	3	3	4	10
Korea	2	5	3	10
Netherlands	2	3	4	9
Greece	2	0	1	3
Romania	2	0	1	3
Turkey	2	0	1	3
Hungary	1	2	1	4
Poland	1	2	1	4

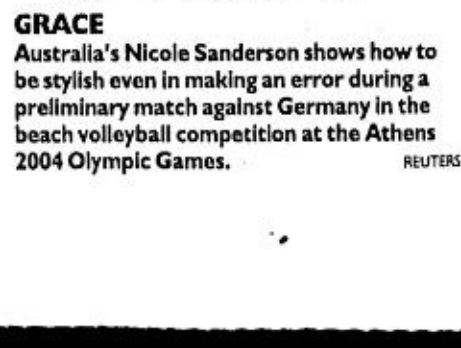
Jao tries to pad lead

ROSARIO, Batangas—Jolet Jao of Shell Advance leads the riders' list when the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix stages its fourth leg on Aug. 21-22 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Jao, eyeing an unprecedented eighth crown in the Expert class, leads with 120 points in the 2004 Shell Advance Superbikes Series sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) and sponsored by Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through Hon. Rosario Uriarte, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Toyota Motors Philippines, Norkis Yamaha, Kilton Motors and MOF Company.

Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex, Jao's toughest rival for the crown, is second overall with 90 points while Randy Ortiz follows closely with 78 in the title race of this event also supported by Yokohama, Standard Insurance, Macnell Architectural Paints, NU 107, Dunkin' Donuts and Alaska.





GRACE
Australia's Nicole Sanderson shows how to be stylish even in making an error during a preliminary match against Germany in the beach volleyball competition at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. REUTERS

LA Salle's Oliver Cua tries to elude National University's Philip Moradas during yesterday's UAAP. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

FEU holds off Adamson

By Jasmine W. Payo

FAR EASTERN University held off a fourth quarter comeback as the Tamaraws escaped the Adamson Falcons, 58-55, yesterday in the 67th UAAP senior basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

In the other senior match, the De La Salle Archers dealt National University the worst beating of the season, 80-51.

FEU strengthened its hold of the second spot at 7-2, while La Salle joined the University of the East in third place at 5-4. Adamson and University of Sto. Tomas shared 4-5 cards, while NU dropped to 0-9.

The Tamaraws opened the final period with an 11-point buffer, but Adamson staged a 12-2 rally that chopped the lead by a point, 47-46, less than four minutes remaining. A jumper from Don Yabut and a three-pointer by Jeffrei Chan gave FEu a 52-48 lead.

"I'm happy with the win, but it was a scare. We gave Adamson too many chances," said FEU coach Koy Banal.

In junior play, the Bengals also clobbered the Bullpups, 75-52, behind Migs de Asis' 26 points.

The scores:

SECOND GAME (Srs)

LA SALLE 80—Tang 15, Cardona 13, Cabatu 11, Yeo 10, Gaco 8, Villanueva 7, Arana 5, Gavino 4, Cua 3, Malerhoffer 2, Gatchalian 2, Galinato 0, Caslo 0, Benitez 0.

NU 51—Estolano 14, Mendoza 8, Fernandez 6, Miclat 4, Mollena 4, King 3, Asoro 3, Malcontento 2, Malagueno 2, Garcia 2, C. Catamora 2, Baljon 1, Moradas 0, D. Catamora 0.

Quarters: 23-10, 39-28, 64-38, 80-51.

THIRD GAME (Srs)

FEU 58—Islp 14, Rizada 10, Santos 9, Yabut 8, Chan 7, Miranda 5, Garcia 3, Mangahas 2, Villanueva 0, Santiago 0, Cutler 0, Barcellano 0.

ADAMSON 55—Abadia 12, Bono 11, Alonzo 9, Cabahug 7, Canuday 7, Hate 4, Tiongco 3, Poloyapoy 2, Gandarosa 0, Hugnatan 0.

Quarters: 16-11, 33-24, 45-34, 58-55.

Must-win for Mapua, SBC today

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	7	3
Perpetual	7	4
SSC	7	4
PCU	7	4
Mapua	5	5
San Beda	5	5
JRU	4	7
St. Benilde	0	10

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—San Beda vs St. Benilde (Jrs)
*2 p.m.—San Beda vs St. Benilde (Srs)
*4 p.m.—Mapua vs Letran (Srs)
6 p.m.—Mapua vs Letran (Jrs)
*Live on Studio 23

THE LETRAN Knights hope to stay on top when the defending champions clash with the Mapua Cardinals today in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

It's a must-win situation for Mapua in the 4 p.m. contest and also for the San Beda Lions, who will face the struggling St. Benilde Blazers at 2 p.m.

The Cardinals and the Lions, tied for fifth with 5-5 win-loss records, need to win their remaining games to keep their Final Four bids alive.

Letran shows the way with a 7-3 mark followed by Perpetual Help, San Sebastian and Philippine Christian at 7-4.

The Cardinals, who clinched a semis berth last year, started strong this season, taking second spot at the end of the first round with a 5-2 slate. Mapua, however, dropped from the top four after losing three straight matches.

Meanwhile, Letran's Frederick Rodriguez will serve his one-game suspension today for hitting Perpetual's Dean Apor in their last matchup.

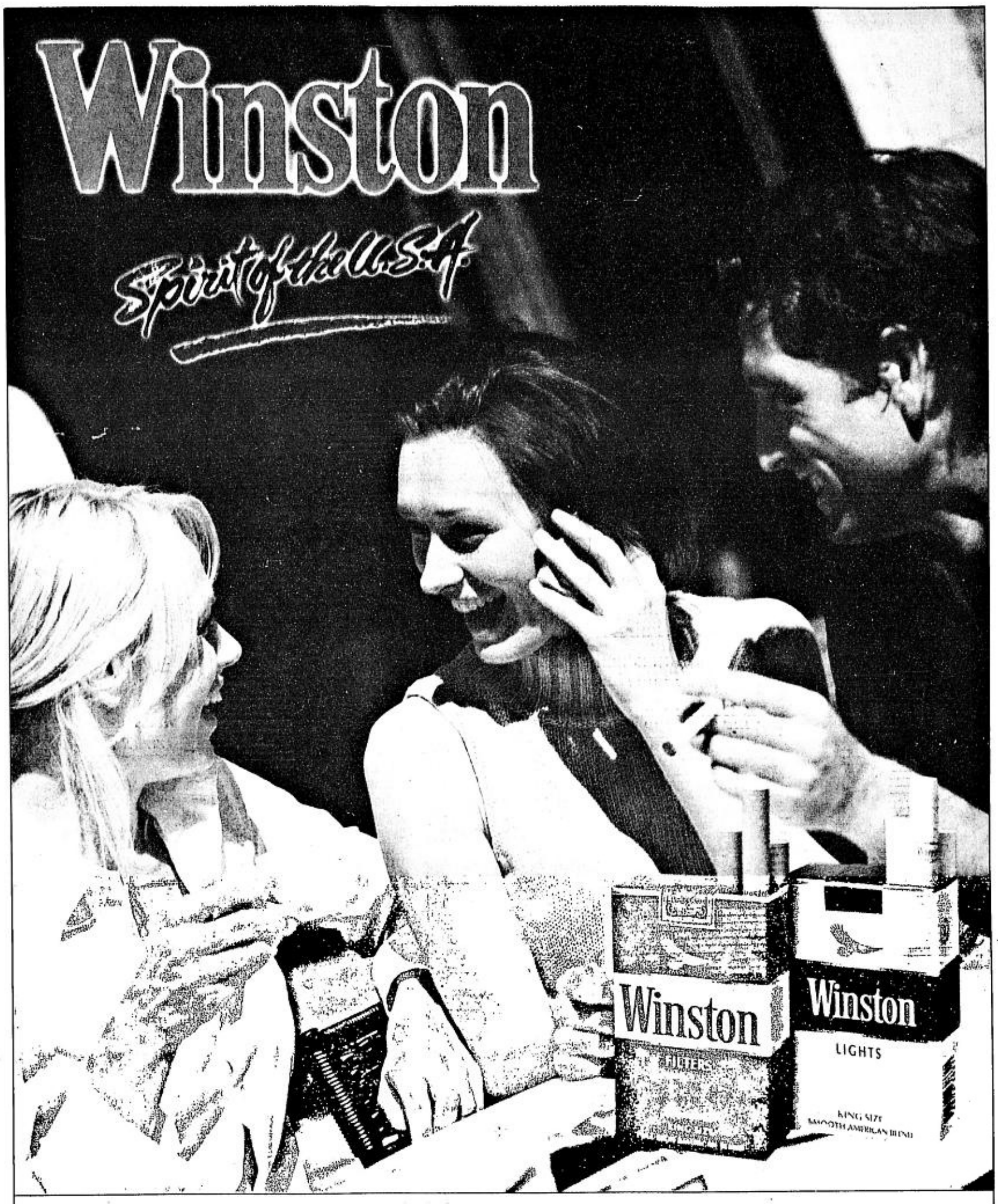
Executive Judge Enrico Lanzanas of Branch 97 Manila Regional Trial Court, however, issued a temporary restraining order for the NCAA not to implement Rodriguez's suspension. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Cebu Tribes down Cards

ALCANTARA, CEBU—The streaking Tribu Sugbu (Cebu Tribes) shut down the visiting Baguio Cardinals in the endgame, 78-69, on Wednesday in the (NBC) National Basketball Conference finals at the packed Alcantara Big Dome here. The Skygo-backed Tribes held the Cardinals scoreless in the last four minutes and 31 seconds of the game while closing out with an 8-0 run en route to their fifth straight win and a pacesetting record of 7-1 in the South Division.

The Cardinals of University of Baguio president Des Bautista absorbed their fourth loss in seven games in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Supercat, Accel, Skygo Motorcycles and Molten.

Ardy Larong led the Tribes of businessmen Lito Gillamac, Albert Tan and Dr. Kelly Viado with 15 points on top of seven rebounds, two assists and a steal to bag Best Player of the Game honors on the venue made possible by Alcantara Mayor Benjamin Alcantara and arranged by right hand man Rey Canoy.



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9	THE VILLAGE
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Purchase participating Sony recording media products. Text the promo code to 2982 for Globe & Touch mobile subscribers & 286 for Smart & Talk n' Text subscribers for a chance towin *2 De Luxe SM Movie Cards.* Winners will be drawn every Monday. To claim your prize present the wrapper with the promo stickerplus the sales invoice at SM Cinema.

SONY
SONY RECORDING MEDIA

& Watch FOR Free!

Promo runs: June 25-Aug. 31, 2004

SM CINEMA

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
proudly brings you the exclusive screening of
ASIA'S EROTIC PHENOMENON
Jandara
at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria and Ermita

CAST:
Viapavee Charoenpua, Christy Chung, Suwinit Panjamawat.
SYNOPSIS:
Jan Dara is a film set in the moody and turbulent Thailand of the 1930s. Jan Dara is the name of a Thai young man whose earliest memories recall his own father having sex with his childhood nanny. In this lopsided and obsessive world. At the tender age of thirteen, he was cast out of his comfortable but troubled household after his stepsister accused him of rape. Years later Jan Dara returns home to seek revenge on his father by outdoing his father's sexual conquests and making him be witness to his triumphs.

MTRCB Rating: R18

For SCREENING SCHEDULES, call 635-5555 or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

See it At it's Best!

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633 2727 / 633/851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR PG - 13 / FS : 12:50 pm, 3:05 pm, 5:20 pm, 7:35 pm LMF : 9:50 pm
2 (DOLBY)	THE STEPFORD WIVES PG - 13 / FS : 11:25 am, 1:40 pm, 3:55 pm, 6:10 pm 8:25 pm, LMF : 10:40 pm
3 (DOLBY)	A CINDERELLA STORY GP / FS : 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm, LMF : 9:30 pm
4 (DOLBY)	THE VILLAGE PG-13 / FS : 1:00 pm, 3:35 pm, 6:10 pm, LMF : 8:45 pm
PREMIERE	
(DOLBY)	THE STEPFORD WIVES PG - 13 / FS : 12:00 pm, 2:15 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:45 pm, LMF : 9:00 pm

SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238

1. (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2.	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3.	KARELASYON
4.	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5.	BANGKOK HAUNTED

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	RESERVED
2	DEAD PEOPLE
3	KARELASYON
4 (SDDS)	THE VILLAGE
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 (DOLBY)	ALIEN VS, PREDATO
7 (DTS)	ALIEN VS, PREDATO
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Marogana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	ALIEN VS, PREDATO
3	THE CINDERELLA STORY

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	BANGKOK HAUNTED
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	BANGKOK HAUNTED
2	KARELASYON
3	COLLATERAL
4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 (DOLBY)	ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
6	THE VILLAGE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY)	ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOL)	ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
2 (SDDS)	ELLA ENCHANTED
3 (DTS)	COLLATERAL
4 GOLD (DTS)	THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE VILLAGE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE CINDERELLA STORY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
8 (PREM)	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 (PREM)	BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 (PREM)	GARFIELD

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center

MALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397

3 (Dolby)	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 (SDDS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 (DTS)	THE VILLAGE
6 (Dolby)	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
7 (Dolby)	STEFORD WIVES

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
4	RESERVED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DTS EX)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	THE VILLAGE
3 (DOLBY)	COLLATERAL
4 (DTS)	ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	AROUND THE WORLD
3 (DOLBY)	GARFIELD
4 (DTS)	ELLA ENCHANTED

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	CATWOMAN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	THE VILLAGE
2 (DOLBY)	ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
3 (DOLBY)	THE STEPFORD WIVES
4 (DOLBY)	THE CINDERELLA STORY

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	KARELASYON
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS)	ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DTS)	THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DOLBY)	ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
4	THE VILLAGE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DOLBY)	THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DTS)	ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
4	THE VILLAGE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	GARFIELD
3 (DOLBY)	RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3 (DOLBY)	THE VILLAGE
4 (DTS)	GARFIELD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DOLBY)	THE VILLAGE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	I - ROBOT
2	KARELASYON
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 (DTS)	CATWOMAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE VILLAGE
2	KARELASYON
3 (DTS)	ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5	THE CINDERELLA STORY

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	COLLATERAL
3 (DTS)	ELLA ENCHANTED
4 (DOLBY)	ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	COLLATERAL
3	PERLAS
4	ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER

JOBMarket ONLINE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Dino tops...

From page A32

ers expect and deserve no less.

Well, that's all water under the bridge. Dino now needs to do his utmost best as a GMA 7's latest contract artist, so his hard-won victory shall have been worth the stress and struggle involved. He should also set an example for professionalism and love for performance that will encourage his fellow finalists to also do well in their own reinvigorated careers.

"30 Days" has given many of them a second chance to do well in the field of performance they all profess to miss and love—so, guys, don't blow it! *Third* chances, practically nobody gets.

MCO concert

FOR the past two decades the MCO Foundation has been committed to the promotion of classical music and the performing arts. The foundation will mark its 20th anniversary with a special concert at 6 p.m. on Aug. 28 at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank, Tower 1, Makati Avenue.

The concert highlights: performances by the Philippine Madrigal Singers and pianist **Regina Montesclaros**, 11, and excerpts from "Saludo Filipino," "Tango!" and the Company of Ateneo Dancers.

Ipanema

IPANEMA Bar and restaurant at Eastwood City Walk, Libis, QC features these entertainers: Monday, Lounge Laid Back session. Tuesday, Michael Angelo. Wednesday, Peppermint Sky, Jacq and Thor. Thursday, She Said. Friday and Saturday, DJs play '80s, '90s and R&B hits.

Feedback

READER **Lynn** writes: "The TV ad showing a mother carrying her son to escape from his father, *hindi magandang tingnan, hindi magandang* values *ang itinuturo. Parang ipinapakitang* abuser *yung* daddy!

"'Victim' is a bad show. I can't grasp the logic of spending money just to put up a fake product launch or show episode, then inviting artists just to be victimized. Hello! It's boring, *hindi nakatatawa.* In fact, *nakakainis panoorin.*

"Songs with double meanings should not be aired—like 'Kikay,' 'Bulaklak,' 'Sasakyan Kita.' Andrew E's songs are the most vulgar. Their lyrics are polluting our minds.

"I'm disappointed with GMA 7 for producing 'Marinara,' a copycat of 'Marina,' for competition's sake. It's so un-GMA *na kilalang hindi manggagaya.*

"PANA should review commercials showing youth doing nothing but have parties, teaching them to spend money buying more loads, SIM cards and other vanities just to be 'in.' Can somebody make a

DINO/A31

Dino...

From page A30

commercial showing the youth having fun with their family at home? Too many commercials for beauty products for the youth teach them to be superficially beautiful to attract crushes..."

'A Stun of Islands'

AMADIS Guerrero's latest travel book, "A Stun of Islands," is available in major bookstores like National Bookstore, Powerbooks and Solidaridad. Amadis' evocative travel pieces have come out in the INQUIRER's Travel section, making budget tourists like us want to experience the beautiful places he so engagingly describes.

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3 DD Dolby NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
11:00 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 pm

4 SDDS ALIEN vs PREDATOR
12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm

5 dts THE VILLAGE
12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm

6 DD Dolby BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm

7 DD Dolby STEPFORD WIVES
11:00 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 pm

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
OPEN TODAY 4 PM to 10 PM

ARANETA COLISEUM

Aug 21	AVON SALES CONVENTION
Aug 22	UAAP: Ateneo vs. La Salle
Aug 27	CUSA OPENING CEREMONIES
Sep 11	UAAP: Ateneo vs. F E U
Sep12	UAAP: CHEERING COMPETITION

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MASARAP NA PUGAD / TUKAAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2 3 & 4	ALIEN VS PREDATOR, STEPFORD WIVES, CINDERELLA STORY, THE VILLAGE
PREMIERE THEATRE	STEPFORD WIVES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GARFIELD
CINEMA-2	INDECENT BEHAVIOR (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-3	CINDERELLA STORY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-6	I ROBOT
CINEMA-7	CATWOWAN
CINEMA-8	KARELASYON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STEFORD WIVES
CINEMA-12	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-14	THE VILLAGE
CINEMA-15	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	ELLA ENCHANTED
CINEMA-2	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

star group of cinemas movie guide

IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA - SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
Bangkok Haunted 2
Alien vs Predator
Now that I Have you

METROPOLIS ALABANG starmall
Tel. No. 850.42.85
Reserved
Karelasyon
Bangkok Haunted 2
Now That I Have You
Alien vs Predator
Collateral

starmall LAS PINAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
Alien vs Predator
Now That I Have You

FREE! Cinema Pass
For every 3 tickets you buy at any Star Group of Cinemas

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
FS : 12:50 pm, 3:05 pm, 5:20 pm, 7:35 pm
LMF : 9:50 pm (PG-13)

2 THE STEPFORD WIVES
FS : 11:25 am, 1:40 pm, 3:55 pm, 6:10 pm
8:25 pm, LMF : 10:40 pm (PG-13)

3 A CINDERELLA STORY
FS : 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm,
7:30 pm, LMF : 9:30 pm (GP)

4 THE VILLAGE
FS : 1:00 pm, 3:35 pm, 6:10 pm,
LMF : 8:45 pm (PG-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE
THE STEPFORD WIVES
FS : 12:00 pm, 2:15 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:45 pm, LMF : 9:00 pm
(PG-13)

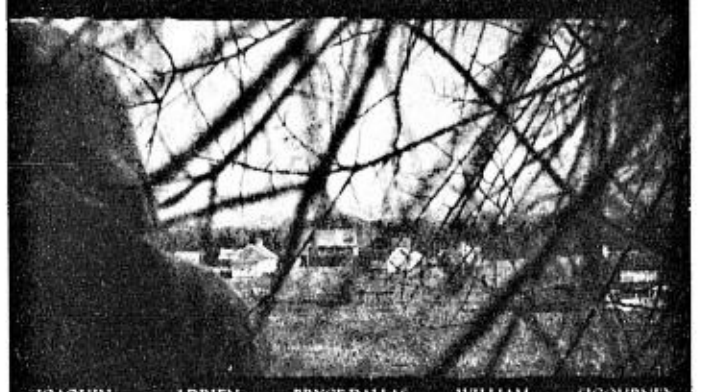
For more information please call
633-7851 loc. 169 to 172

Shangri-La Plaza

SECOND WEEK

MTRCB PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

THEIR DAYS OF PEACE ARE OVER



JOAQUIN PHOENIX · ADRIEN BRODY · BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD · WILLIAM HURT · SIGOURNEY WEAVER

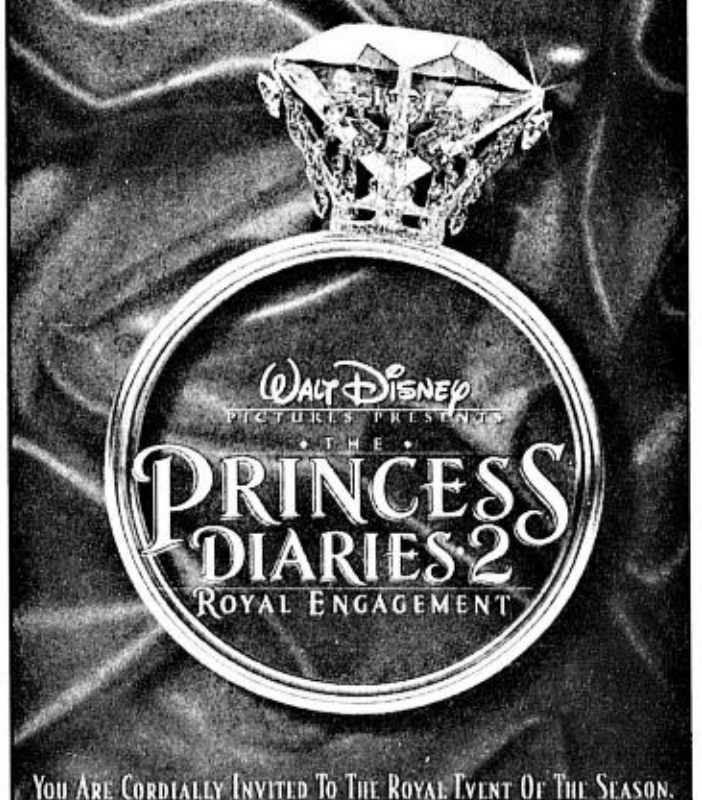
M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN'S
THE VILLAGE

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED

JULIE ANDREWS ANNE HATHAWAY

TO GET THE KINGDOM OF GENOVIA...
THERE'S JUST A LITTLE HITCH.



WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE ROYAL EVENT OF THE SEASON.

AUGUST 25

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING R-18 | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS ONLY

NOW SHOWING Exclusively
AT ROBINSONS GALLERIA & ROBINSONS ERMITA

ASIA'S EROTIC PHENOMENON!
A STORY OF SEX, GUILT AND RETRIBUTION

Jandara
A Nonzee Nimibutr Film

Starring CHRISTY CHUNG, SUWAT PANJAISAWAT, VIPAVEE CHAROENPURA, BANTISUK PROKUSIL, EAKARAT SARSUKH, PATARAWARIN TIMUL
Released through Solar Entertainment Corporation

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS FOR ALL BRANCHES 635-5555
Visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

TOP MOVIE THEATER
Annual National Consumer's Quality Award 2003
Family Consumers Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16

CINEMA 1
THX ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

2 THE VILLAGE 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	4 JANDARA 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	6 THE STEPFORD WIVES 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	7 CATWOMAN 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	9 COLLATERAL 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	10 A CINDERELLA STORY 12:20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:05, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:10, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:00		
2 JANDARA 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:50	3 THE VILLAGE 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	4 THE STEPFORD WIVES 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20, 10:00	7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 COLLATERAL 10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 9:00	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30	
3 THE VILLAGE 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30	4 BANGKOK HAUNTED 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10	5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:10, 12:45, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:10, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30	7 A CINDERELLA STORY 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	8 THE STEPFORD WIVES 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:30

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00	2 GARFIELD 10:30, 12:10, 1:50, 3:30, 5:10, 6:50, 8:30	
3 A CINDERELLA STORY 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30	4 COLLATERAL 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40	5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:40, 3:15, 5:50, 8:30
6 THE VILLAGE 10:20, 12:25, 2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45	7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30	8 CATWOMAN 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 THE VILLAGE
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 KARELASYON

CAINTA 240-4661
1 THE VILLAGE
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 A CINDERELLA STORY
3 ELLA ENCHANTED
4 THE VILLAGE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 ELLA ENCHANTED
4 PERLAS
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

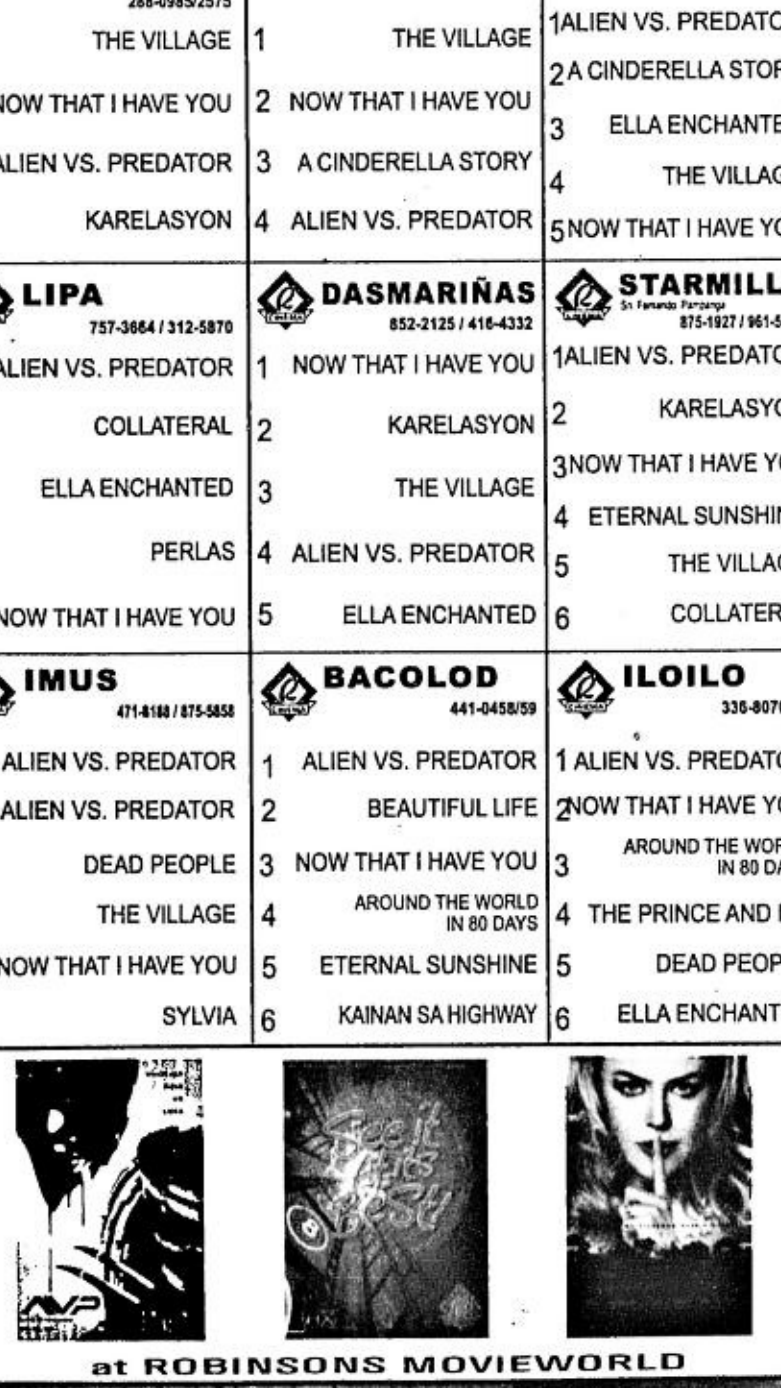
DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 KARELASYON
3 THE VILLAGE
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 ELLA ENCHANTED

STARMILLS San Fernando Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 KARELASYON
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 THE VILLAGE
6 COLLATERAL

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 THE VILLAGE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 SYLVIA

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 BEAUTIFUL LIFE
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
5 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
6 KAINAN SA HIGHWAY

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
4 THE PRINCE AND ME
5 DEAD PEOPLE
6 ELLA ENCHANTED



at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

ASIA'S EROTIC PHENOMENON
watch the
Exclusive Screening of Jandara
at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD Galleria and Ermita

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

ENTERTAINMENT

Seeémall! AYALA CENTER ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU

AT THE CENTER

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
NOKIA EVENT August 20 to 22, 2004	HELLO KITTY 30TH BIRTHDAY PARTY August 20 to 22, 2004	IMPERIAL CIRCUS LIVE! August 20 to 22, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES featuring KITCHIE NADAL August 20, 7:00 to 10:00pm	MERK'S Happy Hour: Mae Main Feature: FORTE

stage Rep's Globe Theater presents PINOCCHIO August 7 to December 12

EXPO TRADE HALL FOR EXHIBITS, EVENTS AND MORE! For inquiries and bookings, please call 750-4982 to 84

AYALA CINEMAS

ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)		GB3 (Greenbelt 3)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 A CINDERELLA STORY	5 GARFIELD	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 THE STEPFORD WIVES 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50, 12:00	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 THE STEPFORD WIVES	2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2: THE UNBORN	2 THE VILLAGE	6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	2 DIRTY DANCING 2
		GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE STEPFORD WIVES 12:35, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15			
3 THE VILLAGE	3 THE STEPFORD WIVES	4 COLLATERAL	7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 COLLATERAL 2:00, 4:30, 7:00 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 9:50, 12:00	3 THE UNINVITED
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU		GB1 (Greenbelt 1)		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 A CINDERELLA STORY 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
		1 THE STEPFORD WIVES 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20			
5 A CINDERELLA STORY	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE VILLAGE 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30	5 PRINCE & ME

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AYALA MALLS
Lovemall!

Robin's talent fees to go to painting of mosques

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

ROBIN Padilla's talent fee for endorsing a paint brand will go to the repainting of all mosques in the country, starting in Taguig, the site of a big community of Muslims.

Robin, a Jehovah's Witness who converted to Islam while he was serving a jail term for illegal possession of firearms in the early '90s, told the entertainment press last Wednesday that instead of paying him in cash, the owners of Dutch Boy Nalcrete, which is his latest product endorsement, gave him a credit line that would allow him access to a supply of paints.

He also needs gallons of paints for the expansion of his school, the Liwanag ng Kapayapaan Foundation, which is located at his residence in Fairview, Quezon City, said the actor who used to be known as the "bad boy" of Philippine movies.

He said additional classrooms would be built, which would have cost him P2.5 million, but Smart has agreed to finance the construction.

The action star also endorses the telecommunications' money remittance service in print and TV advertisements.

Robin said that the deals he gets from his endorsements enable him to help his fellow Muslims.

"I don't have a movie showing now," he said in Filipino. *"Yung 'Kulimlim,' nangulimlim* ('Darkness' went dark)."

"Kulimlim," a suspense thriller directed by Maryo J. de los Reyes, was Viva Films' entry in the Manila Film Festival last June.

Robin blamed the showing of "Spider-man 2" just a week after the opening of Manila film fest for his movie's poor showing at the box-office.

Robin's bread and butter these days is "Basta't Kasama Kita," Channel 2's action-drama series where he stars with Judy Ann Santos. It is scheduled to end next month.

Robin was released from prison in April 1998. He has since become vocal about his faith and his opinions on national issues.

PAINTER. Robin endorses Dutchboy

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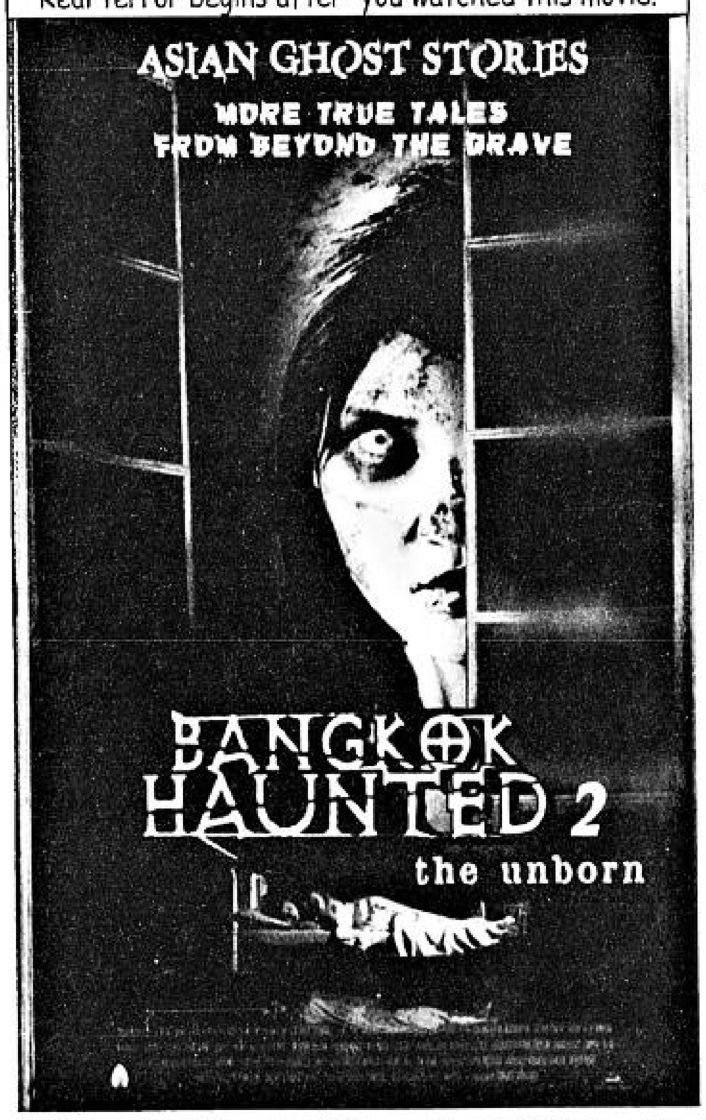

SM CINEMA

what to watch
Drama
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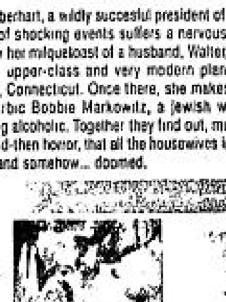
Joanna Eberhart, a widly successful president of a TV Network, after a series of shocking events suffers a nervous breakdown and is moved by her milquetoast of a husband, Walter, from Manhattan to the chic, upper-class and very modern planned community of Stepford, Connecticut. Once there, she makes good friends with the ascerbic Bobbie Markowitz, a jewish writer who's also a recovering alcoholic. Together they find out, much to their growing stupor and then horror, that all the housewives in town are strangely blissful, and somehow... doomed.

now showing

Subject to MTRCB Rating
DIAL 8339999 for screening schedules

up next



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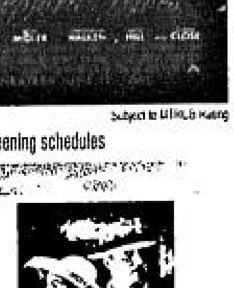

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More movies on page C2.

Dino tops '30 Days' tilt

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Friday, Channel 7's "30 Days" talent tilt for former stars finally found its winner in **Dino Guevarra**, who edged out **Biboy Ramirez** for the top plum.

Dino was one of our top three bets since the very start of the competition, so we were glad he won. For a time there, unsubstantiated talk had it that Biboy was the finalists of choice, so it looked like Dino was in for an uphill fight. On the final night, however, things started looking up for him when six out of the eight other finalists picked him as the winner over Biboy.

But jurors **Christopher de Leon** and **Lolit Solis** voted for Biboy, so the final decision depended on viewers' text votes—which, happily, went for the most part to Dino.

The final verdict was correct, but it carried with it some interesting and instructive considerations:

First, it went against the local entertainment scene's conventional wisdom, which "logically" prefers an "eligible bachelor" like Biboy to the much-married Dino. This is because local show biz fans are supposed to favor stars who are single, so the fans can freely fantasize that romance with them is still possible(!).

Despite this, Dino won, so this suggests that local fans are *finally* growing up, and have learned to value talent over other, more irrelevant factors.

It was also instructive that jurors Christopher and Lolit favored Biboy. We take their vote to mean they were evaluating the two remaining finalists' chances for renewed stardom according to traditional norms. But it looks like that "safe" kind of stellar evaluation no longer works, so Christopher and Lolit may have some rethinking to do, so they can catch up with the rapidly changing times.

While we're glad Dino won, we wish he could have handled his victory better. Instead of making it a point to thank his supporters and acknowledge their applause and cheers, he spent a lot of time embracing his wife so fiercely that viewers couldn't even see his face. And his kids didn't help things any by running and jumping all over the place.

Yes, it's great that Dino proudly acknowledges his being a husband and father, but victorious moments shouldn't be messed up and upstaged. His support-

DINO/ A30

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2004

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

Trade gap hits $1.2B as imports rise

Draft rules on meter deposits refund out

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission has come up with the draft guidelines that will govern the refund of residential electric meter and bill deposits to consumers.

The refund is expected to cost Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest electricity distributor, some P4.2 billion.

The Magna Carta for Residential Electricity Consumers, which outlines the rights and obligations of consumers and power distributors, provides that new residential power users are no longer required to put up deposits for their electric meters. As such, those who had paid would have to be refunded, including accrued interest of 6 percent or 10 percent.

Article 7 of the Magna Carta entitles residential power consumers to a refund of their bill deposits-equivalent to a month's worth of electricity consumption-if they are able to complete three consecutive years of prompt payment of monthly bills.

The draft guidelines set the ground rules for the conduct of the meter and bill deposit refunds.

At present, bill deposits can only be refunded a month after the termination of a power distributor's service. The Magna Carta, however, provides that customers can already get back their bill deposits even without having their service terminated, provided that they meet the three-year prompt payment condition.

For Meralco, residential bill deposits amount to P2.9 billion, including accrued interest.

The draft guidelines state that the refunds can be in the form of cash, check or credit to future billings.

The ERC believed that consumers need not put up deposits for their meters because the utilities had already included the cost of these equipment in their rate base.

The ERC, under the draft guidelines, allows the power distributors to implement the refund in 10 phases, based on when the residential customer had his electricity service activated.

DRAFT/ B5

By Michelle V. Remo

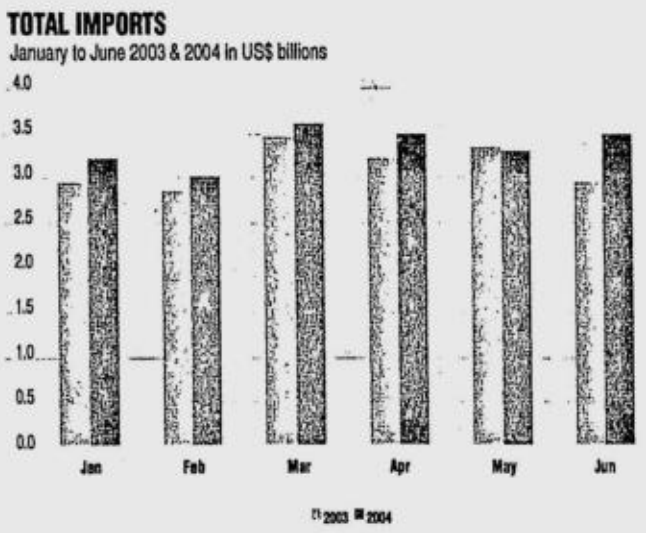
MERCHANDISE imports rose 7.2 percent in the first half of the year to $19.938 billion from year-ago level, which, according to the National Economic and Development Authority, was an indication that economic activity would pick up in the coming months.

The rise in imports was attributed to higher demand for equipment and raw materials. However, the sharp rise in fuel costs, brought about by the soaring of world oil prices, also contributed to the increase in the import bill.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the higher first-half import bill resulted in a trade deficit of $1.204 billion which, however, was lower than the $1.344 billion recorded in the same period last year.

For June alone, imports grew by 18 percent to $3.45 billion from $2.93 billion in the same month last year. Exports during the month were lower at $3.3 billion resulting in a trade deficit of $142 million.

Spending on imported fuel and related materials rose 119 percent to $517.54 million during the month from $236 million a year ago.



The electronics sector accounted for 41.4 percent of the imports in June amounting to $1.43 billion, up by 6.7 percent from year-ago level. The higher imports in June, according to Neda, allayed fears that the decline in electronics imports last May was a signal that the sector was headed for a downturn.

Electronics imports, consisting mainly of raw materials, are used as inputs for the production of electronics products for exports. The electronics sector is the country's biggest dollar earner accounting for more than half of the country's exports.

Neda Director General General Romulo Neri noted an increase in the demand for industrial equipment during the period, which meant that the information and communication technology (ICT) sector would continue to expand and create more jobs.

He added, however, that the expected growth of the country's electronics exports would not be as fast as those enjoyed by its Asian neighbors.

"Technology analysts are warning of a likely correction in global electronics, due to slower inventory drawdown and slower second-quarter domestic growth in Japan and the United States," Neri said.

But the Neda chief said the increase in imports that was largely brought about by higher demand for non-fuel products, such as capital goods, was encouraging as this indicated higher industrial production in the coming months. Imports of capital goods grew 7.8 percent in June.

Neri also noted that an increase in consumer demand had contributed to the higher imports in June. The NSO reported that imports of passenger cars and motorcycles, and home appliances expanded by 24.8 percent and 13 percent, respectively. Non-durable items—mainly dairy products, rice, fish, and fruits and vegetables—increased by 9.1 percent.

Japan accounted for the biggest, or 17.6 percent, of the Philippines' total import bill for the month. Imports from Japan reached $606 million. Japan was followed by the United States, which accounted for 14.9-percent share of total imports. The Philippines spent $515 million for US goods.

INDICATORS

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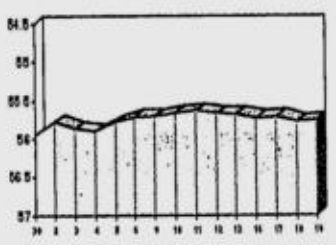

₱ 55.76 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 19, 2004

¥ 109.51 = $ 1
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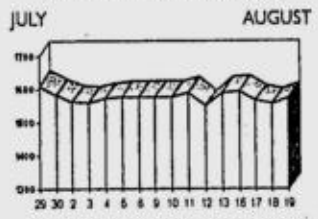
GOLD: $403.2-403.7
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 19, 2004

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks up 1.09% on bargain hunting

SHARE prices yesterday closed 1.09 percent higher with bargain hunting seen in blue chips after sentiment was given a lift by overnight gains on Wall Street, dealers said.

Second liners with strong growth prospects also attracted interest, although volumes were light as investors remained wary of the impact of high oil prices, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index put on 16.90 points at 1,573.27. It moved between 1,556.37 and 1,574.38.

Volume fell to 692.2 million shares worth P412.4 million from 1.3 billion shares worth P463.32 million on Wednesday.

The all-shares index rose 3.29 points to 1,004.30. The commercial-industrial index advanced 21.03 to 2,506.84, and property gained 11.98 to 517.03. Mining was up 10.28 at 1,904.76 and oil up 0.05 at 1.59. Banking and financial services gained 3.44 to 455.26.

"Selective blue-chip buying enabled the market to bounce back from previous declines. But the volumes are still weak, indicating that there's still not much interest to trade at the moment," said Joseph Roxas of Eagle Equities Inc.

"Bargain-hunters took their cue from the US market's performance last night," added Elena Ponceca of Unicapital Securities Inc.

Dealers said the 18 percent year-on-year increase in merchandise imports in June might have also inspired bargain-hunters. The data is seen pointing to increased exports in the coming months since most of the items imported were raw materials for finished goods sold abroad. *AFP*

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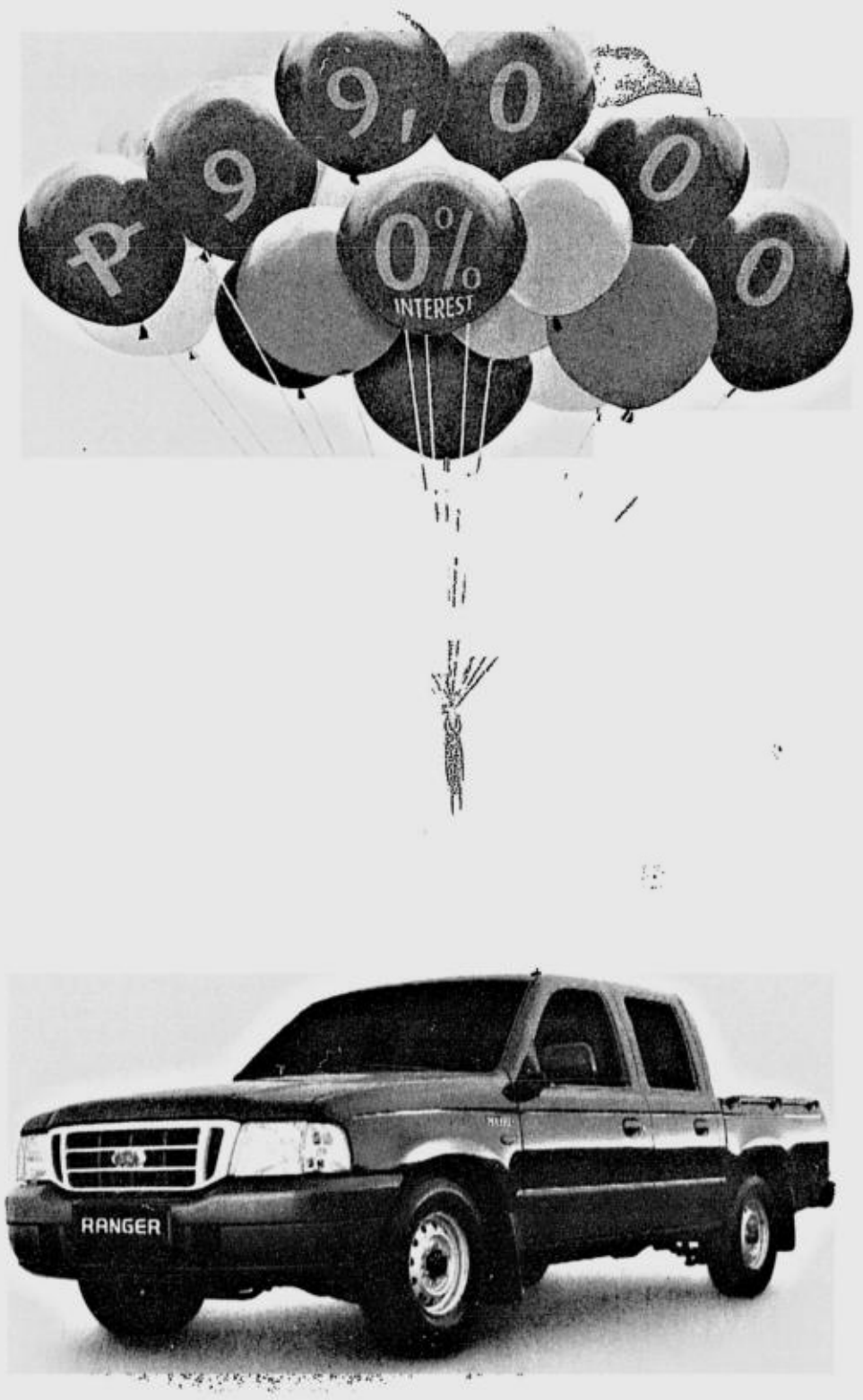

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2004

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Madz tops 2 categories in choral competition

IN A spectacular victory, the Philippine Madrigal Singers broke its 7-year silence in the world of choral competition when it emerged triumphant in the 50th Certamen Internacional de Habaneras y Polifonia held in Torrevieja, Spain. The Madz bested 22 choirs, which included winners of other prestigious competitions and past Torrevieja winners.

All participating choirs competed in 2 categories-- habanera and polyphony. Each choir was required to perform three habaneras, 1 habanera obligada (a choice from 2 given pieces) and 2 freely selected pieces. Subsequently, 2 polyphonic works were performed.

The Madz proved itself an early favorite among the predominantly Spanish audience. The Singers performed their program with such aplomb that Spanish nationals were prompted to inquire if Filipinos spoke Spanish in the Philippines. Many were brought to tears by the sheer depth and range of emotion expressed while others were bowled over by the technical prowess they exhibited. Some members of the competing choirs were even heard to proclaim that they were already sure that the Filipinos would be the ones to win.

Needless to say, roads to fame and victory are never easy. In this case, the Madz faced stiff competition from a lot of Spanish based and Spanish speaking choirs that have already mastered the habanera, most notably the choir from Cuba, from which the habanera originated. Of course other technical aspects have already been fine-tuned in the preceding 2 months of their European tour. All that was left is to ensure that they give the habaneras that authentic Spanish flavor, and this they got to do after they got a taste of Spanish culture in their week-long stay in Valencia, the last leg of their concert tour before embarking on the road to Torrevieja.

All that hard work did pay off in the end. The Madz bagged first prizes in both categories, besting 2 Latin American choirs (Cuba and Puerto Rico were 2nd and 3rd prizes, respectively) in the habanera and 3 Russian choirs (Ukraine and Latvia tied for 3rd place and Russia won 2nd) in the polyphony. The group is only the 2nd choir to have done so in the history of the competition; and is also the 4th choir from a non-Spanish speaking country and the 1st choir from Asia to win 1st prize in the habanera category.

This victory capped a "celebration of firsts" for the group under its new choirmaster Mark Anthony Carpio-first European tour, first competition joined, first competition won. And these firsts are inarguably fine portents that more good things are in the horizon.

PRU LIFE UK INKS TIES WITH MCDONALD'S

Pru Life UK, a wholly-owned subsidiary of British giant Prudential UK, forges an agreement with American fast food giant McDonald's (Golden Arches Development Corp) offer Prulink Assurance Account (PAA) to its employees as part of the latter's Flexiben Benefits Program. PAA is a flexible insurance product that can be packaged to suit the various needs of the market. Pru Life UK will tailor fit PAA to serve up the educational and saving needs of McDonald's employees. Present during the contract signing are (from left) Golden Arches Development Corp HR consultant Joan Manalo, Golden Arches Development Corp HR director Hector Jaraza, Pru Life UK VP for marketing services Belen Elvira Tiongco and Winnie Lim, manager for worksite marketing - Pru Life UK.

Top MLM company proves its worth

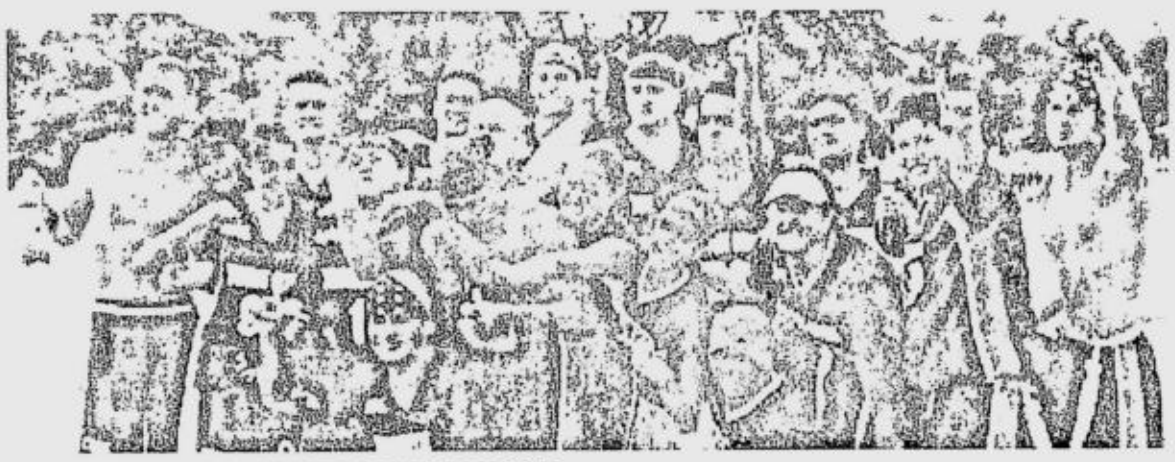
GANO Excel (Phils) Inc, a top Multi Level Marketing (MLM) firm engaged in the distribution of Ganoderma-based herbal products recently celebrated its fifth anniversary surpassing the challenges of the past four years and carving its niche in the MLM industry.

The company proved its strength and stability through its continuous growth and expansion despite the economic crisis that continuously plague the country. From its humble beginning, Gano Excel (Phils) Inc has remarkably grown into a formidable establishment with its more than 300,000 distributors, six (6) branches, and more than a hundred stockist centers spread all over the country.

Indeed, based on the number of awardees given recognition during the firms anniversary, Gano Excel is definitely successful in bringing good health and wealth to the Filipino's and to other countries as well.

"If one wants a global business with low capital, low risk and big earning potential in less time possible, networking is definitely the trend. This is the business that provides equal opportunity to many people; degree holder or not. To qualify, a person only needs vision, passion and determination. But one must be smart in joining MLM companies because pyramiding scams are also present in this business. To determine if an MLM company is legitimate: it has to have products, the products should have fair market value, and the commission should come from product movement and not from the registration fee of members. These are just some of the guidelines to find out if you are with the right networking firm and not with illegal pyramiding companies. All these characteristics of legitimate business are with Gano Excel. Added to that, we have superior quality, highly effective and affordable products," this comes from Leo Esteves, assistant general manager.

With Gano Excel's direction in conquering the international market, the company is indeed soaring high reaching for greater heights and spreading its name not only in the Philippines but all over the world.



CB RICHARD ELLIS FOOTBALL TEAM WINS

The Young Guns, the football team of CB Richard Ellis, emerged as this year's champion in the sixth edition of the 9 vs. 9 Philippine Flag Football League (PFFL) held recently at the Ateneo High School field. CBRE associate director, Trent Frankum (far left), who was also its quarterback, led the Young Guns. Now on its sixth year, PFFL is a grueling 18-week long season that is considered the most competitive and physical football game won three times in a row by the Young Guns. CB Richard Ellis is an American listed firm and is the largest real estate company locally and in the world with the most amounts of transactions in square meters. Photo shows the jubilant Young Gun team after they gunned down the Addict Coalition sponsored by Addict Mobile.

The new frontier in energy healing

PRANIC Healing is a simple yet powerful and effective method of energy healing. The word "Pranic" stems from the Sanskrit word "prana" meaning "vital life force." Prana is the energy that is fundamental to all life and which the body uses for healing and proper function. You can get this vital energy from the sun, air, and the ground, water, food, and trees.

Pranic Healing relates the problems of the physical body to the imbalances of the human energy field, which commonly called the human aura or bioplasmic body. There are energy centers called chakras, which serve as the breathing mechanisms of the aura. Prana is absorbed into the body through these charkas.

In just two days, of Pranic Healing workshop, participants will be taught how to activate these chakras. Once activated, these chakras will become sensitive to feeling other's energy as well as your own. You can scan the aura to locate blockages and be able to cleanse, energize and revitalize the area with new prana. You will also learn techniques to stop the drain of the energy on your body that many health practitioners experience while working on others. You will actually energize yourself while you are healing someone else!

Already active in more than 70 countries and numerous healing centers on five continents, Pranic Healing is being practiced by doctors, nurses, massage therapists, acupuncturists, chiropractors, religious missionaries as well as business executives, housewives and bankers. It has been successfully combined with conventional medical treatments with amazing results.

These are experiential workshops. During class time, all the principles will be explained thoroughly and the techniques practiced exhaustively so you will be confident in your ability to produce positive results.

BLUE EAGLES VISITS NEW TIA MARIA'S CANTINA

The Ateneo Blue Eagles basketball team, led by Doug Kramer, LA Tenorio, and JC Intal recently visited the new Tia Maria's Cantina at Katipunan in Loyola Heights. Shown with the Ateneo team is Leny Aguila, operations manager of Tia Maria's, together with Cantina's store manager, Rod Santos.

ASTHMA CLUB LAUNCHED

The Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (Amhop) and GX International, Inc. signed a Memorandum of Agreement on June 8, at the Palms Country Club, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, launching a community-based Asthma Club Program in the Philippines. Shown are (standing, from left) Dr. Elinor Roquel; Mack Benauro - VP-MSD; Jeff Cortez - PM-Gastro/Pulmo Division; Lanie Madarang-FSM; Dr. Hian-Kiat Oy; Rod Vejerano; Andy Pampolino - VP - Operations; (seated from left) Dr. Ruth Punzalan; Dr. Lyra Leron-Torres; Willy Orejola-President GXI; Dr. Gula G. Abad - president Amhop; Dr. Salee Caraan-Mendoza; Dr. Ruby Villareal.

APAC CHOOSES NORTHGATE CYBERZONE

For the past 18-months, the BPO-Call Center Solutions Group of CB Richard Ellis has been assisting Illinois based Apac Customers Services, Inc. in their real estate requirements in the Philippines. Shown in photo are: (standing, left) Md. Rowena Quijencio, director of human resources, Apac; Raffy dela Rosa and Joey Radovan from the CBRE BPO-Call Center Solutions Group; Ieyo De Guzamn, first VP, Filinvest Alabang Inc, Ma. Dolores Reyes, head of American Desk's Marketing Dept., Board of Investments; (seated, from left) Steve Brown, director and country manager, Apac Customer Services Inc (Philippine branch), Ron Hansen, group VP, Apac Customer Services Inc, Md. Josephine Yap, executive VP, Filinvest Alabang Inc, Celeste Ilagan, director for international marketing deptartment, Board of Investment.

ProductFILES

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BOBSON OPENS AT STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL

Actress and Bobson image model Nancy Castiliogne (third from right) cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of the latest Bobson boutique in Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal. Assisting Castiliogne during the ribbon cutting ceremonies are, from left, Rosemarie Rayala, brand manager; Chris Tiu, VP for sales and business development; Henry Ng, VP for operations and brand management; Victor Tan, Bobson president and CEO and Myra Mangrobang, ad and promo manager of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

KANEBO INTRODUCES LATEST MAKE-UP LINE

This 2004, Kanebo introduces another innovative set of make-up line called T'estimo, a boon to both female youngsters and adults with diverse hues, as it enhances beauty no matter what season. This latest collection of T'estimo was launched at the posh Lolo Dad's Restaurant with an intimate make-over demo featuring premier make-up artists all the way from Japan, Junya Yoneda and pretty 21 year-old model Hannah Gaisano See (shown in photo). Yoneda held a series of make-up demos at the Kanebo counter in Rustan's Tower that came with a bonus personalized make-up photo sheet

Rio units recalled

By Ronnel W. Domingo

COLUMBIAN Autocar Corp. has recalled Kia Rio units sold in the country between January 2000 and March 2004 for a defective fuel distributor assembly.

Columbian, the local partner of South Korean auto maker Kia Motors Corp., said the defective part of the subcompact car "might manifest fatigue after long (use), which could lead to cracking and fuel leakage."

However, the company said in a letter to Trade Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. that there have been no reported cases of such problems in any of the firm's authorized dealers.

Columbian said the move was part of a worldwide recall program being conducted by Kia Motors.

But it was quick to reiterate Kia vehicles' reliability and safety.

Columbian said 328 Rio units—which were imported completely built—were sold during the period.

Cristobal said the Department of Trade and Industry would monitor the conduct of the Rio service campaign.

In another development, the Philippine Automotive Federation Inc. pushed for the ban or at least stricter regulations on the importation of used Japanese vehicles.

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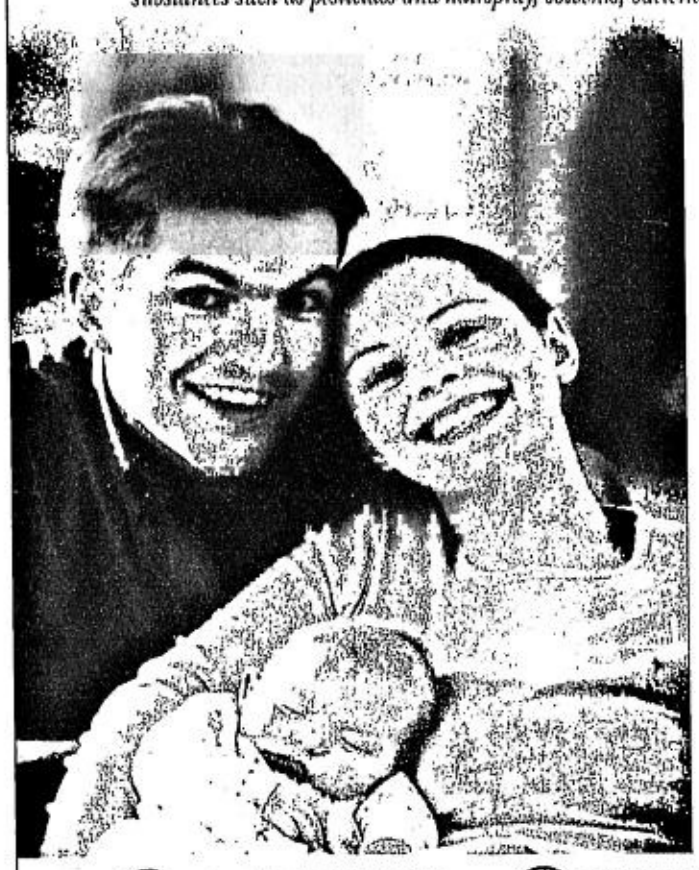

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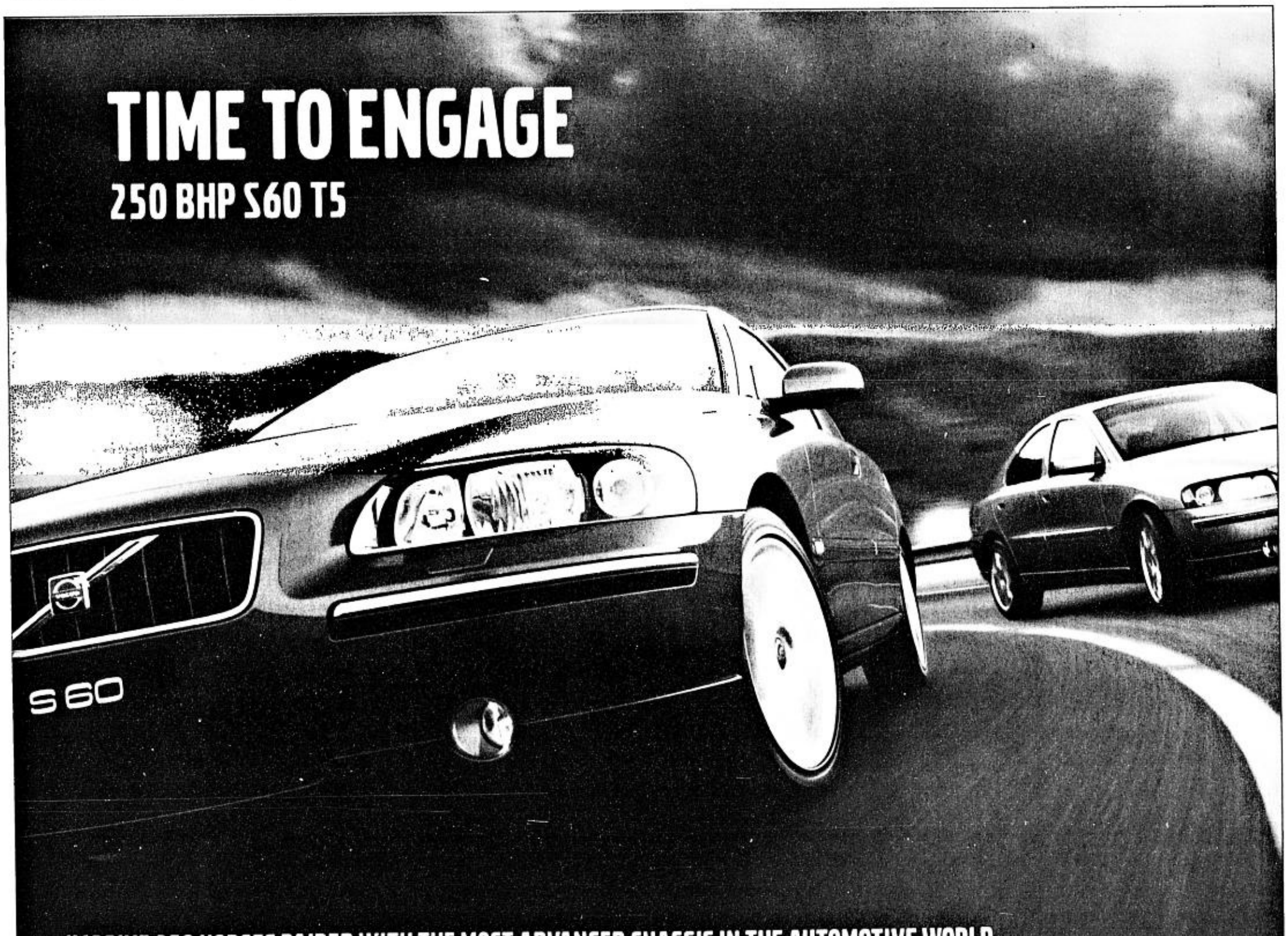

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Globe to settle ₱160-M NTC fees

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc. yesterday said that it had received a P160-million billing from the National Telecommunications Commission for supervision and regulatory fees due this year.

But Froilan Castelo, Globe's head of regulatory affairs, pointed out that the company had no outstanding overdue balance with the NTC.

Edgardo Cabarios, NTC director, the other day said that Globe had unpaid dues of about P100 million, just like Smart Communications Inc.

Pilipino Telephone Corp. has an overdue balance of more than P1 billion, according to the commission.

But according to Castelo, "Globe is updated in its payments of the supervision and regulatory fees."

Globe said it had received only yesterday the NTC's assessment for this year, amounting to P159,650,735.57. In accordance with the Public Service Law, the bill is due on Sept. 30 and is therefore, not yet overdue, said Castelo.

The Globe official said the company was validating the NTC's assessment.

NTC chair Ronald Solis said the commission was pressing the collection of unpaid dues from the profitable telecom companies. These carriers are also the target of the government's new revenue measures aimed at taxing their windfall profits.

Like any other agency, the NTC remits most of its collection to the national government. Last year, the NTC delivered about P1.8 billion to state coffers and hoped to contribute about P1.4 billion in 2004.

In the first half of the year, Smart netted P11.6 billion, while Globe cleared P6.9 billion. Even Piltel registered a net profit of P809 million from January to June after years of losses.

Smart and Piltel's parent firm, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., posted P12 billion in profit during the first half.

Cabarios said the NTC had already filed an administrative case against Piltel, which was elevated to the Quezon City court.

The NTC official said Piltel had been using its financial losses as an excuse to justify its failure to pay.

Cabarios explained that supervision and regulatory fees should be half of the paid-up capital. "So if your paid capital is P1 billion, then the supervision fees you have to pay is P500 million. This is pursuant to the Commonwealth Act."

Solis said the carriers must pay the fees because these are obligations to the government.

He said the fees to the NTC were separate from the taxes the telecom firms must pay the government. Just the same, Solis added, the funds go to the national treasury.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week August 17, 2004	Last Week August 10, 2004
Bond Fund - Peso	1.14802	1.14709
Managed Fund - Peso	1.20614	1.20652
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0460	1.0396

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
METRO MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
AYALA CORPORATION
(Registrant)
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on 11 August 2004, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of AYALA CORPORATION for the registration of P 5 Billion worth of bonds due five (5) years and one (1) day from date of issue, to be offered at par value.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	POSITION
Jaime Zobel de Ayala	Chairman of the Board/Executive Committee
Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II	Co-Vice Chairman of the Board/Executive Committee
Fernando Zobel de Ayala	Co-Vice Chairman
Aristón Estrada, Jr.	Director
Mercedita S. Nolledo	Director
Masakazu Okabayashi	Director
Meneleo J. Carlos, Jr.	Director

CORPORATE OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS	POSITION
Jaime Zobel de Ayala	Chairman of the Board/Executive Committee
Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II	Co-Vice Chairman of the Board/Executive Committee/ President and Chief Executive Officer
Fernando Zobel de Ayala	Co-Vice Chairman of the Board/Executive Managing Director
Aristón Estrada, Jr.	Senior Managing Director and Adviser to the Chairman
Mercedita S. Nolledo	Senior Managing Director and Corporate Secretary
Delfin L. Lazaro	Treasurer & Chief Finance Officer/Senior Managing Director
Gerardo C. Ablaza, Jr.	Senior Managing Director
Francisco H. Licuanan III	Senior Managing Director
Xavier P. Loinaz	Senior Managing Director
Antonino T. Aquino	Managing Director
Jaime I. Ayala	Managing Director
Charles H. Cosgrove	Managing Director
Arthur R. Tan	Managing Director
Rufino Luis T. Manotok	Managing Director and Corporate Information Officer
Renato O. Marzan	Managing Director, Assistant Corporate Secretary and Compliance Officer
Ramon G. Opulencia	Managing Director and Senior Assistant Treasurer

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) Ma. Gracia F. Casals
Officer-in-Charge
Corporation & Finance Department

Banks to issue ₱5-B Ayala bonds in Q3

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

INVESTMENT banks are hoping to offer Ayala Corp.'s P5 billion bonds by the end of the third quarter.

Sources said if there is substantial demand, the company may study increasing the issue size.

Ayala Corp. is awaiting approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission to register its proposed P5 billion fixed rate bond offering to refinance existing and future debts.

Seven local and foreign banks will arrange and manage the proposed P5 billion peso bond offering.

Ayala Corp. also signed a P2.7 billion floating rate note facility agreement with a lending consortium, to be funded by Banco de Oro Universal Bank-Trust Banking Department, BPI, China Banking Corp., Equitable PCIB Trust Banking, FMIC and Landbank.

This short term standby facility will be re-priced quarterly, based on 3-month Mart 1 rates, and provide Ayala Corp. with more flexibility to address its future liquidity and funding requirements.

In raising peso-denominated funds, Ayala Corp. hopes to shift the bulk of its borrowings to local currency.

The firm has close to P6 billion in cash and $140 million in undrawn, committed credit facilities which can cover its maturing obligations up to next year.

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Partial List of Workshop Topics

Track 1. Measurement and Value
1.1 Current Trends on Measuring and Reporting on CSR
1.2 Increasing shareholder value s through CSR
1.3 What companies need to know about Social Auditing
1.4 Benchmarking CSR Practice

Track 2. Partnerships
2.1 Creating the right environment for NGOs and business collaboration
2.2 Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Sustainability: Strategic Partnerships as the way forward
2.3 Partnering with Rural communities
2.4 Why Private-Public Partnerships are necessary and how to make them work

Track 3. Integrity and Ethics (Codes of conduct/ Governance)
3.1 Self-regulation: Are we making progress?
3.2 Understanding Driving Forces of CSR in Asia compared to North America and Europe
3.3 Is CSR Coming of Age Among Asian companies?

Track 4. CSR Communications
4.1 Is talking about CSR a legitimate tool for a company?
4.2 What every company needs to know about effective CSR communication
4.3 The New Role of PR and Media in CSR

Track 5. Resource mobilization/ Financial sustainability
5.1 How to set up corporate foundations
5.2 Generating Resources Beyond your company for Effective CSR
5.3 Corporate giving and CSR practices beyond the original founders

Track 6. CSR in the workplace
6.1 The business case of Diversity
6.2 The business case for Youth Employment Programs: How every business can benefit
6.3 The business case of Employee Engagement

Partial List of Plenary Topics

1. Stand for something or stand for nothing
2. Corporate Social Responsibility: Boon or Bane?
3. Managing CSR in a context of a global enterprise
4. Responsible Competitiveness; A Race to top?
5. CSR within an Asian context: Altruism or Economics?
6. Development of anti-corruption in Asia

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 19, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	55,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	40.5	41	40.5	41	377,600
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	200
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39	40	39	40	42,700
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	210,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26	25.5	25.5	92,700
Philippine National Bank	23	23	23	23	1,400
Security Bank Corp.	21	21	21	21	10,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	24	24	24	24	1,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2220	2230	2220	2230	1,030
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	8,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	112	112	112	112	2,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1500	1505	1500	1505	200
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	3,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	350,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	870	870	865	870	19,070
Ipeople Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	30,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.44	2.44	24,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.55	2.6	2.48	2.6	15,466,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1250	1265	1250	1255	47,240
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.67	0.64	0.66	8,830,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	24,900
Manila Electric Co. B	23.5	23.75	23.5	23.75	526,800
Petron Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.65	1,252,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.14	2.14	26,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	20,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.05	4.2	4	4	6,946,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	120,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.76	107,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	25	25	25	25	33,500
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.79	0.73	0.73	510,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	58	57	58	76,500
San Miguel Corp. B	69	69	69	69	170,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	310,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	118,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	18,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.6	16,607,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	258,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1	1.1	1	1.08	1,770,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	63,200
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	3,400,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	70,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.46	1.32	1.46	10,012,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24.25	24	24.25	365,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.0725	0.07	0.07	5,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.36	1.46	1.36	1.38	707,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	30,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,129,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	150,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	14,480,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.14	0.145	0.135	0.135	16,480,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	75,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	40,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	1,580,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	40,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	351,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	1,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.67	0.67	2,310,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	30,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	410,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	20.5	20.5	20.25	20.5	67,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series L	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,600
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	10,000
Far Eastern University	425	425	425	425	890
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.4	224,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	210,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	1,270,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	14,950,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	690,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	300,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7	7,954,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	30,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	8,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	70,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	610,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	17,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	242,500,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.024	0.027	0.024	0.027	11,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	340,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.004	104,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	150,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.44	2.46	2.44	2.46	68,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	150,000

DISCLOSURES

PHILCOMSAT Holdings Corp. constituted a nomination committee with Luis Lokin Jr. and Enrique Locsin as members.

* * *

POLAR Mines and Development Corp. plans to increase its authorized capital stock from P100 million to P3.5 billion. Its annual stockholders' meeting will be held on Sept. 29 with record date on Aug. 30.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Jolliville Holdings Corp.** were Jolly Ting, Rodolfo See, Nanette Ongcarranceja, Ortrud Ting, Lourdes Ting, Dexter Quintana and Rolando Tuazon.

* * *

BANK of the Philippines Islands disclosed the resignation of Ariston Estrada Jr. as director of the bank. Cezar Consing was elected to replace him. Also, a special cash dividend of P1 a share was declared.

* * *

LEONARDO Toribio will retire as vice president of **Euro-Med Laboratories Philippines Inc.**

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Acesite (Philippines) Hotel Corp.** were Renato Magadia, Rexlon Gatchalian, Kenneth Gatchalian, Elvira Ting, Arthur Ponsaran, Pablo Gancayco, Angel Umali, Lamberto Mercado Jr., James Watt, Arthur Lopez and Philip Encarnacion. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 19, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.810241	1.000000	55.7220
Japan	Yen	0.007410	0.009145	0.5096
United Kingdom	Pound	1.478123	1.824300	101.6536
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.103885	0.128215	7.1444
Switzerland	Franc	0.651215	0.803729	44.7854
Canada	Dollar	0.622210	0.767931	42.7907
Singapore	Dollar	0.473327	0.584180	32.5517
Australia	Dollar	0.578744	0.714286	39.8014
Bahrain	Dinar	2.149238	2.652590	147.8076
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.216059	0.266660	14.8588
Brunei	Dollar	0.471949	0.582479	32.4569
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000108	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.019528	0.024102	1.3430
UAE	Dirham	0.220600	0.272264	15.1711
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.234200	68.7721
Argentina	Peso	0.268469	0.331345	18.4632
Brazil	Real	0.271165	0.334672	18.6486
Denmark	Kroner	0.134486	0.165983	9.2489
India	Rupee	0.017504	0.021603	1.2038
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213250	0.263193	14.6656
Mexico	New Peso	0.071356	0.088067	4.9073
New Zealand	Dollar	0.537688	0.663614	36.9779
Norway	Kroner	0.120214	0.148368	8.2674
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013815	0.017050	0.9501
South Africa	Rand	0.124652	0.153846	8.5726
Korea	Won	0.000700	0.000864	0.0481
Sweden	Kroner	0.108424	0.133817	7.4566
Syria	Pound	0.022426	0.027678	1.5423
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023824	0.029403	1.6384
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000423	0.000522	0.0291

SSS backtracks on EPCIB

UNDER intense legal and lobbying pressures, the Social Security System has decided instead to auction its Equitable PCIBank stake, with original buyer Banco de Oro group having the right to match, under the so-called Swiss challenge rule, the highest bid.

SSS has already reserved advertising space in the leading newspapers to announce the bid rules this weekend.

And, apparently, BDO has been informed of the new SSS tack. But BDO chair Teresita Sy declined to comment when contacted.

According to the grapevine, the SSS board decided to play it safe and auction the 29-percent bloc amid the equivocal opinion it received about the BDO deal from the Commission on Audit.

The new bidding requirement, decided in last week's board meeting, had been overshadowed by the top-level change in the pension body with the impending transfer of SSS Chair Bernardino Abes to the Government Service Insurance System.

Abes will be replaced by Thelmo Cunanan, who has been finally persuaded after initial reluctance to move over from the Philippine National Oil Co.

With a new chairman coming, SSS president Corazon de la Paz has tendered her "irrevocable" resignation although Malacañang apparently is still trying to talk to the tough accountant to stay on.

De la Paz left Wednesday to attend an overseas conference but should be back by the weekend.

According to the grapevine, Cunanan has recommended Alfredo Parungao, currently a PNOC executive vice president, as new SSS president, should the former PriceWaterhouse partner press on with her departure.

DBP: David's bedeviled past

INCOMING Development Bank of the Philippines president Reynaldo David wants to make it clear that, although he had been investigated for alleged illegal foreign exchange transactions during the Marcos years, he was never, ever suspended by the Central Bank.

Rumors about his checkered past began swirling again amid Malacañang's announcement that David, currently CEO of the Export and Industry Bank, has been named as replacement of Simon Paterno.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

David attributed the Central Bank investigation to his being caught in the boardroom squabble between the Co brothers that owned the problematic Producers Bank.

He said he stayed on as Producers Bank president for only 11 months until he decided to relocate to Hong Kong, where he started a new professional, and a colorful domestic, career.

The new DBP president will assume office by Oct. 1.

If it is any consolation to David, two former bank presidents who had actually been fined by the Central Bank for fictitious foreign exchange transactions subsequently went on to become finance secretaries.

Going solo at Polo

THERE are six candidates for the five board vacancies in the Aug. 30 elections of the Manila Polo Club.

Except for hotelier-polo player David de Padua, the rest are all allied with the current board.

Incidentally, De Padua supported the present board in the last two elections. Still, the rumor is that there is a quiet campaign to vote for candidates two to six. Guess who is candidate number one?

Heard through the grapevine

SUPREME Court Justice Dante Tinga, with the concurrence of the court's Second Division, has rebuked Court of Appeals Justices Salome Montoya, Gorardo Jacinto and Artemio Tuquero for their 1996 "absurd and even dangerous" reversal, on the say-so of a so-called expert, of a lower court ruling involving a forged check.

Montoya, the ponente of the dangerous ruling, has since retired, while Tuquero went on to become justice secretary of the Erap administration.

(E-mail: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

Draft rules on meter . . .

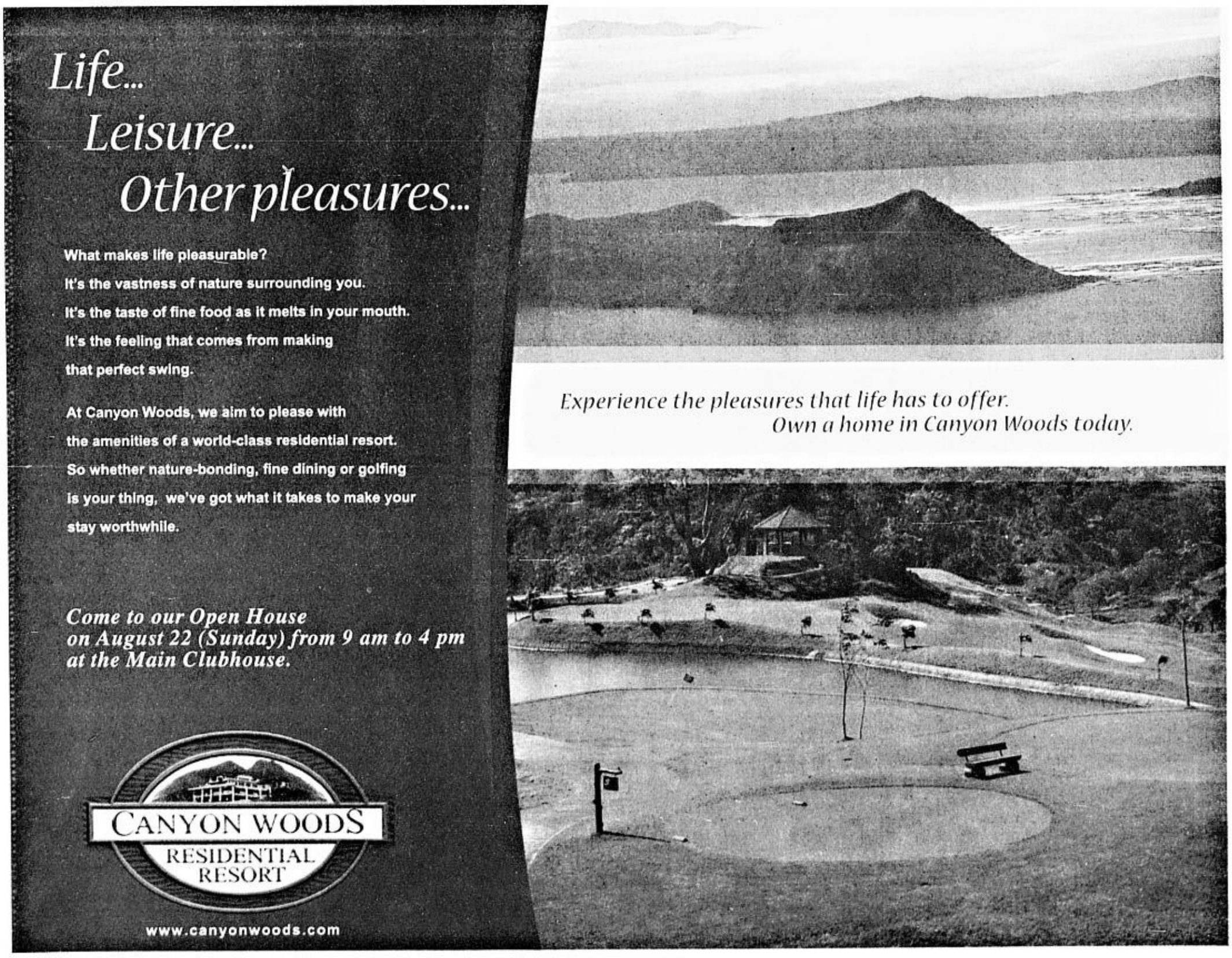
From page B1

The refund will have to be implemented from Jan. 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2010, with six months dedicated to each phase.

In the case of Meralco, the total residential meter deposits are placed at P1.3 billion, including accrued interest.

But customers can also opt not to refund their meter deposits, in which case the amount they initially paid for that purpose will continue to earn interest.

For electric cooperatives, the refunds will come from their reinvestment funds.



Pinoys love scents and two-in-one products

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FILIPINOS love fragrances, put on a lot of makeup and are avid buyers of value packs.

These are some of the insights into the Filipino buying culture that The Body Shop, a global chain of beauty shops based in the United Kingdom, gathered from its eight years of operations in the Philippines.

Kevin Sargison, The Body Shop's retail director for the Asia Pacific, tells Business Friday that Philippine consumers share many buying characteristics with other Southeast Asians.

But they definitely have their idiosyncrasies.

The 35 Body Shop stores in the Philippines, for instance, sell more lip and cheek sets than the 500 other stores in Asia combined.

"Filipinos apparently love products that do two things. It provides them a good value for their money," Sargison says.

Filipinos are also avid followers of products with mango and papaya scents, more so than The Body Shop's other Asian customers.

"Fragrance is a big thing here. Filipinos are very concerned about the smell. They usually smell a product first before they buy it," he says.

This is one reason why coconut oil-based products do not sell well in the Philippines, compared to the United States, Australia or Europe.

Coconut oil, Sargison says, reminds most Asians of cooking, thus, should not be anywhere near cosmetic or beauty products.

The trend, however, is slowly shifting in favor of coconut oil-based products, due to the renewed interest in the cosmetic and health benefits of this abundant raw material.

Sargison says research also shows that Filipinos, surprisingly, are less concerned about skin care than the average The Body Shop customer.

Per capita sales of regular cleansers and moisturizers are lower in the Philippines than the rest of Asia.

Even then, total sales in the Philippines is bigger than Thailand, and comparable to Indonesia and Malaysia.

"Cities in the Philippines, like those in many other countries in Southeast Asia, are quite polluted, so you would think that people would take more care of their skin. But this could also be because of income levels," he says.

As income levels rise, he says it is possible that Filipinos will eventually stock up on popular products such as toners, eye creams, eye treatments and facial masks.

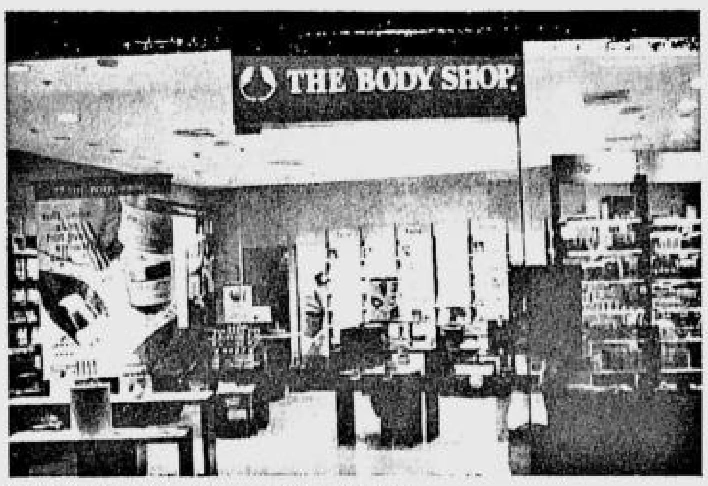
Moisturizers, understandably, do not sell as much in tropical countries since the people already have oily skin. The humid temperature also doesn't help sales.

SARGISON

These products sell more in temperate countries and in Asian countries with a cold season, such as Japan and Korea.

The Body Shop's hair care products are also not as popular in the Philippines, perhaps due to the steep price differential with regular shampoos and conditioners sold by local manufacturers and multinationals.

There are many buyers, however, who are willing to pay four times as much as the regular shampoo for a product sold by The Body Shop, because of the firm's support of various campaigns toward fair trade and environmental protection.



THE 35th The Body Shop at Greenbelt 4

The Body Shop started from a small shop in Brighton on the south coast of England in 1976, with only around 25 hand-mixed products on sale.

A portion of its sales are used to fight human rights abuses, protect animal and environmental rights and challenge stereotypes of beauty perpetuated by the cosmetics industry.

Sargison adds the ingredients come from small entrepreneurs in many remote parts of the world, who rely on The Body Shop's orders for survival.

"We support many women's groups across the world who provide us with the raw materials. For instance, we get olive oil from poor communities in Italy. We get bananas from Africa, beeswax from Zambia and nuts from Brazil," he says.

"We could get these much more cheaply elsewhere, but we still buy from them as part of our campaign," Sargison adds.

Filipinos will learn more about these campaigns from The Body Shop founder Anita Roddick herself, when she comes in November for a visit and turnover of a mobile school vehicle to Childhope Asia.

Childhope Asia Philippines is an independent NGO working to promote the welfare of street children in the Philippines and the Asian region.

Founded in 1986, it seeks to liberate children from the sufferings caused by working and living on the streets.

In 1996, The Body Shop Foundation in the United Kingdom provided the funds to enable Childhope Asia to purchase pedicabs for their Mobile Library, as part of their Mobile Education Program.

These pedicabs were used as vehicles equipped with books, enabling the street educators to teach in the streets; serving like an informal school.

The Body Shop is also mobilizing a campaign to solicit old books from customers. These old books could be donated at any of The Body Shop stores nationwide.

At The Body Shop Robinson's Galleria, there is a part in the store where one could learn more about the Mobile Education campaign.

Coin banks for this campaign are also installed in all 35 stores of The Body Shop, which helps in raising funds. Christmas parties for street children are also spon sored every year where Christmas goods and clothes are given to them.

Sargison says it was heartwarming to note that more Filipinos are seeing the value in The Body Shop's work, and are willing to pay the steep price to support it.

Relief from the minimum corporate income tax (MCIT)

By Wilfredo U. Villanueva and Rex S. Austria
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

THE 1997 Tax Code, specifically Section 27(E)(1), imposed a minimum corporate income tax (MCIT) of two percent on gross income of a domestic and resident foreign corporation beginning on the fourth taxable year from the year it started operations.

It is imposed whenever a corporation has zero or negative taxable income or whenever the amount of minimum corporate income tax is greater than the normal income tax due from such corporation (Revenue Regulations No. 09-98).

Before the introduction of the MCIT, some corporate taxpayers are able to minimize or even avoid payment of income taxes lawfully due to the government by declaring losses or minimal profit from the business. Thus, one of the changes introduced by the 1997 Tax Code is the imposition of the MCIT, which primarily aims to forestall tax evasion by corporations that, despite business operations, have been declaring losses year in and year out (The Manila Banking Corp. vs Commissioner of Internal Revenue, C.T.A. Case No. 6442, April 21, 2003). Hence, the mere fact that a corporation incurred a net loss in its business operations will not exempt it from income tax.

However, burdening losing corporations with the MCIT seems unfair and unjust as it tends to further deprive the firms of the funds needed for the business operations. Fortunately, the 1997 Tax Code provides a form of relief from said tax particularly to corporations suffering from substantial losses in operations.

Suspension of the MCIT

Under current law and regulations, the secretary of finance, upon the recommendation of the commissioner of Internal Revenue, may suspend the imposition of the MCIT upon submission of proof by the applicant-corporation, verified by the commissioner's authorized representative, that the corporation sustained substantial losses on account of a prolonged labor dispute or because of force majeure or because of legitimate business reverses.

Simply put, the secretary of finance may suspend the imposition of the MCIT, when the following requirements are met: 1) the corporation requesting for suspension of the MCIT must have sustained substantial losses; 2) the substantial losses must be caused by a prolonged labor dispute, force majeure, or legitimate business reverses; and 3) the commissioner recommends its suspension upon verification of the proof of existence of the preceding conditions.

Substantial losses from a prolonged labor dispute means losses arising from a strike staged by the employees which lasted for more than six months and which caused temporary shutdown of business operations. Obviously, this ground can be invoked only if the requirements as to the duration of the strike and the resulting temporary shutdown of operations are present.

Force majeure, on the other hand, means a cause due to an irresistible force as by act of God like lightning, earthquake, storm, flood and the like. Armed conflicts like war or insurgency likewise fall within the definition of force majeure. The enumeration of instances deemed act of God is not exclusive and exhaustive. Hence, other natural calamities and armed conflicts similar to the given examples may also be considered as force majeure.

Lastly, legitimate business reverses include substantial losses sustained due to fire, robbery, theft or embezzlement, or for other economic reason as determined by the secretary of finance. The enumeration of causes of substantial losses that may serve as a reason for suspension of the MCIT is also not exclusive. The secretary of finance may, in appropriate regulations, broaden the list of economic reasons resulting to substantial losses by the inclusion of other situations in the regulations. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) opines that pending such inclusion, however, such other economic reasons cannot yet be invoked as a ground for suspension of the MCIT (BIR Ruling No. 007-01 dated Feb. 22, 2001).

It is noted, however, that in a subsequent ruling, the BIR recommended and the secretary of finance approved the request of a corporation for the suspension of MCIT because of continuing losses incurred by the applicant-corporation due to the rapid deterioration of the value of the Philippine peso as well as its customers purchasing power (BIR Ruling [DA-157-01] dated Sept. 7, 2001). Clearly then, corporate taxpayers that have been suffering continuing losses in operations have a chance to obtain relief from the burden of the MCIT even if said losses or business reverses arise from causes other than those identified in the pertinent regulations.

Procedure for suspension of MCIT

Neither the 1997 Tax Code nor Revenue Regulations No. 09-98 prescribes the procedures or steps for the suspension of the MCIT.

Nonetheless, the years of actual implementation of this relief have crystallized the basic procedures for its availment, as follows:

1. Filing of a written request or application for the suspension of the MCIT together with the supporting documents with the Law Division of the BIR;

2. Review and evaluation by the Law Division of the propriety of the request or application for suspension along with the supporting documents;

3. Review and approval of the Law Divisions report or recommendation on the application or request by the commissioner of Internal Revenue; and

4. Approval by the secretary of finance of the recommendation of the commissioner of Internal Revenue on the application or request for the suspension of the MCIT.

Although the 1997 Tax Code provided for the relief of suspension of the MCIT concurrently with the imposition of said tax, not many corporations have availed of said relief from the MCIT in the past years. Lack of sufficient knowledge about the existence of said remedy may be the plausible explanation for the present situation. Indeed, this relief is available and if the requisite conditions are present, a corporate taxpayer may not have to pay the MCIT. After all, the suspension of the imposition of said tax is intended as a shield from the sure liability for income tax despite huge losses.

Finding a venue to shape young minds

LEX Ledesma is a testimony to the fact that one does not have to excel in school to make it in life. At 29, he has accomplished more than many twice his age. What makes this young man special however, isn't all his enterprises but his unorthodox view on life.

The one person who molded Lex's formative years was his Yaya Ustang, equipped with only a grade four education. "She worked for my family for almost 50 years, serving us silently, never asking for anything in return. She taught me that life was about giving, not about taking. Most importantly I learned that decency, integrity, and the ability to cause positive change was not linked to a person's education or economic class," he narrates.

Ustang, who passed away in 2001, planted a seed in young Lex's mind that everyone is equal and should be treated as such. Through her eyes he saw the Philippines in a way that most of his sheltered classmates did not. It made him question why there were such glaring disparities between the rich and the poor, and most importantly it was his responsibility to do something about it.

At the Ateneo High School and De La Salle University where Lex was educated, he stuck out like a sore thumb. Socially, everything was great, but academically he failed miserably. "I never thought I was dumb. I felt however, that the system of education was focused only on memorization and regurgitation. When I passed my Civil Engineering board exams, I never really felt that I had learned anything. All I did was memorize. Plus, as a student, I hated it that I was never listened to. Teachers acted like they were all knowing, and no one was allowed to question their authority. That didn't sit well with me at all."

Lex narrates that the common complaint from students is that the lessons they learned were not applicable in the real world after graduation. Wanting to try another system of education he applied and got his Masters in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford University. "While in the US I experienced for the first time that learning can be fun.

LEDESMA

I remember one day Gary Kasparov, the greatest chess player in history, walked into class. He was the guest speaker for a Competitive Strategy class being given to engineers. Many of us thought: What does this guy have to teach us engineers? He proved us wrong by talking about how body language can be used to impress, intimidate, or show strength during a match. Mr. Kasparov also talked about how to read a person's eyes and how he used this skill to win at chess—all very practical stuff that I can use for the rest of my life."

Inspired by the fascinating teaching methods he encountered abroad, and frustrated by his own experiences locally, Lex along with a group of educators and entrepreneurs decided to put up the Centre for International Education (CIE) on the 28th floor of RCBC Tower in Ayala Avenue. Through the school, he has found his venue for change.

CIE is different because while other college graduate students still need to look for jobs, these students already have their own businesses. Building a business around your personal passion is a requirement for graduation, giving these young entrepreneurs an advantage over their peers. The CIE Undergraduate program has successful entrepreneurs teaching entrepreneurship, so students can learn from people who have made it in business, not just academicians.

Each student is assigned a mentor who will work closely with the young entrepreneur as he starts up and then grows his enterprise. The school propagates the belief that the way out of our country's economic difficulties is to stop breeding employees but instead create more entrepreneurs.

Another founding principle behind the Centre for International Education is that students will be actively engaged in class discussions. Recent breakthroughs in research show that the most effective means of instruction is where students get to self-express. Lex says, "Adults have no right to demand being listened to just because of their age. They need to earn the respect of those younger than them. Many teens rebel against authority because they feel that they aren't valued. In most schools, listening to students is an activity which is grossly overlooked."

Lex is at the forefront of several other enterprises. From Karaoke King, a set of fifteen mall-based mini-recording studios which was featured on CNN; to Nami Private Villas, a luxury resort in Boracay that is expanding to Bohol in the next few months; to Bronzeoak Philippines, a company building renewable energy power plants all over the country. All these ventures are aligned with his personal passions.

"Everyone is a genius at something. Its just a matter of figuring out what that is," Lex quips. "Starting enterprises becomes a source of inspiration if you love what you do. I want to help people find their passions and grow enterprises around it. That is what I want my life to represent: I want to be the one who helped others fulfill their dreams."

Talk set to support entrepreneurial activities

GLOBAL Filipinos Inc., a non-partisan coalition of overseas Filipino organizations and leaders, will sponsor a roundtable discussion and business matching on the coconut industry on Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2004 at the Bureau of Soils Auditorium, Quezon Memorial Circle, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The seminar will be held in partnership with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and COCAFM of Sen. Ramon B. Magsaysay.

The guest speakers are Magsaysay, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and Administrator Danilo Coronacion of PCA.

The workshop has three objectives: (a) define strategies, policies and concrete activities to support private sector entrepreneurial initiatives in six focused product lines, i.e., geo textiles, virgin coconut oil and cooking oil, bee culture, herbal soaps, biodiesel and coconut water; (b) organize working groups for the different product lines; and (c) formulate a framework for carrying out a foreign public policy and communications program that will include lobby efforts in the US and preparation of credible medical research highlights to support claims about the health benefits of coconut products.

Global Filipinos is taking a lead role in initiating the definition of a strategic framework for the restructuring and development of the Philippine coconut industry.

Some of the stakeholders have developed their internal versions of a roadmap. However, these road maps have yet to comprehensively cover the product-specific strategic information defined by the collaborative coconut protocol.

The workshop participants will include representatives from the private and public sectors.

Fighting poverty

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

TWO days ago, two private sector-led discussions were held in an effort to fight poverty.

The first was a forum held in the conference room of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), which focused on programs.

The subject was "Perceptions of Poverty in the Philippines: Government and NGO Views," a study made by AIM Professor Ned Roberto.

The second focused on policy.

It was a rally held in front of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) building. The subject was the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework agreement that was concluded last July 31 in Geneva.

The rally was led by fisherfolk leaders from the Kilusang Mangingisda, which is a member of the Alyansa Agrikultura farmer-fisherfolk coalition.

Anti-poverty programs

During the AIM forum, various anti-poverty programs given by both the government and non-government organizations were discussed.

Among these were the provision of food, health services, housing, and livelihood opportunities. Three of the poverty models Roberto presented are identified here.

The first is the "governance and economic combo model." Some underlying assumptions are: "Poverty is due to lack of good governance at the city/municipal/provincial level;" and "Poverty is due to lack of economic and business opportunities."

The second is the "work value and spiritual value combo model." Some assumptions are: "Poverty is due to the laziness of the poor;" and "Poverty is due to lack of proper moral and spiritual values in the community."

The third is the "crime driven and crime driving combo model." Some assumptions are: "Poverty is due to oppression by criminal groups;" and "Poverty here is leading many poor people into committing crimes."

There are still other anti-poverty models used by both government and NGO organizations.

However, Roberto concludes from his research that these organizations would be much more effective if they focused their efforts on adopting a primary thrust, rather than following too many models at the same time. Furthermore, this thrust should be determined by the beneficiaries in the selected target communities.

Roberto said: "The answer is to start by really understanding the target beneficiaries instead of forcing them to fit into certain poverty models."

Roberto ended his presentation with a prayer of St. Francis of Assisi: "O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be understood as to understand."

During the open forum, Social Weather Stations (SWS) head Dr. Mahar Mangahas suggested that this understanding be target specific and localized, rather than done on a national macro level.

We agree with Mangahas that it is only in this way that anti-poverty programs can become truly effective.

WTO policy

It has been said that policy does more than programs in achieving change, often accounting for 70 percent of the impact. This is because programs operate under a policy environment.

The fisherfolk leaders who rallied last Aug. 18 welcome anti-poverty programs that provide food, health services, livelihood opportunities, and the like.

But they argued that if the overall WTO policy framework is wrong because they can no longer sell their fish against cheaper imported products with large subsidies, then the other anti-poverty programs can do little to stop the even greater poverty that will surely take place.

While recognizing the agriculture trade improvements skillfully negotiated largely by Agriculture Assistant Secretary Segfredo Serrano, the fisherfolk leaders strongly object to new provisions in the WTO framework that adversely affects them.

In an Aug. 9 statement formulated with farmers and other stakeholders, they said: "The framework is crystal clear when it comes to protecting the interest of the developed countries, and so conveniently vague when it comes to accommodating the demands of the developing countries."

They argue that the new framework gives a go-ahead for the United States and Europe to continue their subsidies to agriculture, which amount to $140-160 billion.

On the other hand, the developing countries are subjected to more stringent binding tariffs and faster tariff reduction schedules.

No level playing field

This does not provide for a level playing field.

For the fisheries sector, where the Philippine government unilaterally dropped its tariff rates to 10-15 percent without consulting the fisherfolk, the new framework forces our government to adopt maximum bound rates of 20-30 percent.

Prior to this framework, we had the flexibility to adjust these rates to the level appropriate for us because we had no bound rates.

Referring to the 20-30 percent rates from which there would be further required WTO tariff reductions, the fisherfolk leaders said: "These rates cannot provide ample protection to a sector that is already drowning from so many threats and pressures on its resource base."

They also asked that the lead in the fishery trade negotiations both for market access and fishery subsidies be transferred from the DTI to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The DA, not the DTI, is responsible for the country's fishery sector and takes the lead in the WTO agriculture trade negotiations.

We agree with the fisherfolk that the DA similarly take the lead in fishery trade negotiations.

Conclusion

Fighting poverty is indeed an enormous task.

We should follow Professor Roberto's recommendation that we understand the target beneficiaries fully before we provide them with increasingly focused anti-poverty programs.

Similarly, we should devote more resources to formulating and deciding on policies like the WTO framework. Today, too few resources are spent on policy, which often can have more impact than programs.

If we follow the recommendations made on anti-poverty policies and programs made by Roberto and the fisherfolk leaders last Aug. 18, we will be much closer to winning our fight against poverty.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry, and former chair and Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

MB allows banks to buy more SME receivables

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY Board has relaxed the single borrowers limit (SBL) on banks buying trade receivables from small and medium scale enterprises.

In a circular which will take effect next week, the BSP's policy-making body said that the banks would be entitled to an additional 10-percent exposure to the trade receivables, on top of the current SBL of 25 percent of the bank's net worth.

This is on condition, however, that the SME's receivables are due from companies with credit ratings of at least AA or equivalent from a BSP-recognized rating agency."

The MB imposes a SBL to prevent banks from exposing themselves to just one industry or borrower.

The banks said that the trade receivables of the SMEs, which had become past due or rolled over, shall be computed as an additional loan by the bank to the SMEs.

In an earlier ruling, the BSP said it would exempt from the SBL the exposure arising from banks' purchases of SME receivables from top corporations.

The BSP issued the new ruling to restrict the trade receivable purchases to those issued by top corporations.

The MB ruling supports the new electronic marketplace set up by the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines for the trading of accounts payables to SMEs.

The facility, called "Marketplace for SME Receivables Purchases" or M4SME-RP, seeks to lower the cost of financing the working capital requirements of SMEs, through a competitive auction process.

Food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. previously signed an agreement to facilitate the trading of its accounts payables to SMEs with the DBP.

At any given time, the SMC has about P13 billion worth of payables, mostly to SMEs.

The SM group of retail tycoon Henry Sy has committed to do the same.

The DBP has proposed a similar arrangement with other big companies, such as Nestlé Philippines, Unilever, Petron Corp., Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Amazing 0% deals at Greenhills Appliance Fair

IT'S THE biggest appliance exhibit this time of the year! If you're looking for amazing deals in home appliances, then rush to Greenhills Shopping Center for Automatic Centre's 0% Appliance Fair with Citibank credit card.

This is your chance to own the best and latest models of top appliance brands at very affordable prices. What's more, when you purchase through Citibank credit card at the exhibit site, you can avail yourself of great selections at absolutely 0% interest in three, six or 12 months term!

With just a swipe of your Citibank credit card, you're now on your way to enjoying a more comfortable and entertaining time at home with the family. Sit back and watch your favorite movies on your brand new Pioneer DVD component system payable in six months, or with your JVC home theater offered at three to 12 months term. Record wonderful family moments with your Canon or Kodak digital camera and view them on your brand new Philips projection TV, all available at 0-percent interest.

Dishing up a gourmet meal for a party? All the kitchen appliances you need are found at the exhibit! From refrigerators, ranges and microwave ovens available interest-free, to water dispensers, blenders, food processors, turbo broilers, gas stoves, hotdog makers and electric indoor grills, you can choose from a wide array of brands and models. If you're preparing for a picnic, Thermos travel mugs, food flasks and lunch sets are perfect for your outdoor food fest. And when it's time to clean up, Electrolux vacuum cleaners and frontload washers are there to help you. Both appliances are available at 0-percent interest at three to six months term.

Plus, more appliances are in store at the Greenhills Appliance Fair such as air purifiers, industrial fans, flat irons and rechargeable lamps, as well as digital pianos, personal digital assistants, electronic dictionaries, blood pressure monitors, body fat monitors, chair massagers and more.

Other participating brands include AOC, Audiovox, Blims Furniture, Casiotone, Carrier, Changhong, Condura, Dowell, Elba, Hitachi, Hyundai, Kelvinator, Kolin, Konka, LG, La Germania, Midea, Magic Sing, Moulinex, Next Base, Omron, Panasonic, Sharp, Sony, TCL, Toshiba, Vivitar, Whirlpool, White-Westinghouse and Xenon. More of the best appliance brands offering the most affordable prices and value for your money are available at the exhibit.

Take advantage of this amazing interest-free deal! This is the time to buy the appliances you've always wanted through your Citibank card. Visit Automatic Centre's 0% Appliance Fair at the Greenhills Shopping Center until Sept. 12.

ARAULLO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI BATCH 1971 IN ACTION

The Araullo High School Alumni Batch 1971, in coordination with chair Dominador Mangalos of Barangay 684, Zone 74 held its initial civic action work to some 300 indigent children at Santiago Street, Paco, Manila, July 17. This social service is part of Batch 1971 Alumni's intention to share its blessing to the less fortunate and to inform other batchmates of the group's existence. Batch '71 will host Araullo High School's Centennial Year Grand Alumni Homecoming in February 2006 to be held on the School Campus on Taft Avenue, Manila. In preparation, it is inviting all other Alumni Batch 1971 to get in touch with Jessette Prospero, Lynette Bernardo Monillas, Rita David Agra or with Chito Jose Cruz at 732-7295, 400-7261, 643-5704 or 813-2241.

Araw ng Lucena at SM

SM CITY Lucena joins in the 43rd Araw ng Lucena celebration with activities that highlight history and culture with a sense of fun. This year's theme focuses on "Unlad Lucena: Taon ng Disiplina at Pagkakaisa."

The August festivities recently began with an exhibit showcasing the memorabilia of the late President Manuel L. Quezon, after whom the province in which Lucena is located was named.

His grandsons Manuel Quezon III and Enrique Quezon Avancena were the guests of honor in the exhibit's opening ceremonies. Joining them were city and provincial officials including Councilors Dan Zaballero and Jose Asensi, Provincial Administrator Evelyn Abeja, City Administrator Juliet Villanueva, and Provincial Tourism Officer Hazel Habito Javier.

Beauty took centerstage in the "Pagandahan ng Lahi ng Lahing Lucenahin", a search for the festival's fairest on Wednesday, Aug. 18 at the SM City Lucena Entertainment Plaza at 4 p.m.

To mark Quezon Day and the late President's birthday Aug. 19, the mall held an Inter-School Essay Writing Competition and Poster Making Contest from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Entertainment Plaza. It's also party time in a big way at the 3-day Lucena Street Party with San Miguel Beer at the open parking from Aug. 19 to 21. Lucena's hottest bands will be rocking with rhythms during the event.

There's more Araw ng Lucena fun. The "Parada ng Lahi" will be participated in by Lucena's clans on Friday, Aug. 20 at 9 a.m. at the open parking area. The "Hataw Talaga Laban sa Droga Dance Competition" will be held on Saturday, Aug. 21 at the SM City Lucena Entertainment Plaza, and the "Family Fun Day" on Sunday, Aug. 22 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Entertainment Plaza.

SHARING the honors at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Quezon Memorabilia Exhibit are Councilors Dan Zaballero, Councilor Joe Asensi, Provincial Administrator Evelyn Abeja, City Administrator Juliet Villanueva and SM City Lucena assistant mall manager John Jason Terrenal.

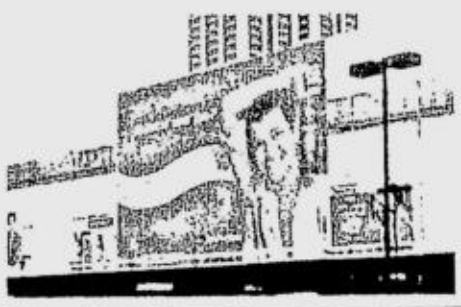
A new sight to see at SM Megamall

PASSING by the SM Megamall in Ortigas Center has become even more eye catching with the awesome Glass Wall Ad that looms bigger than life in its bridgeway area.

The Glass Wall Ad is a new concept in mall advertising recently introduced by Prime Spots Inc, the pioneer in mall advertising together with the SM Supermalls. This is a first in the Philippines.

One can't miss the glass panel and feel mesmerized by the grand scale image in the SM Megamall facade. It is highly visible along Edsa and is a point of interest for mall-goers, pedestrians and motorists. The location is considered a prime area, with foot traffic count of more than 2 million a month. It is also cost effective.

The Glass Wall Ad is a project of Prime Spots and SM Supermalls.



THIS amazing glass wall at the SM Megamall is the first to use this advertising format.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Manila, Philippines

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Bids and Awards Committee - Head Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest to bid for the engagement of the services of a Consultant to assist the Treasury Department (TD) in the search, evaluation, selection and implementation of an integrated Treasury Management System (TMS).

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) - P11.0M		Target Completion Date
Phase I	- Assessment of TD's current operations and preparation of the Requirements Definition Reports	4 months from date of acceptance of award by the selected consultant
Phase IIA	- Publication and procurement of TD's software package	6 months from completion and acceptance of Phase 1 deliverables
Phase IIB	- Installation and the full implementation of the acquired TD's software package	Full implementation of the software package which should be within 12 months from date of acceptance of award

Interested Consultants must submit the following documents to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) thru the BAC Secretariat, Room 212, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building, corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, not later than August 27, 2004, 4:30 p.m., Philippine Time.

1. Articles of Partnership/Incorporation and/or Business Registration Papers
2. Y2003 Audited Financial Statements (Income Statement and Balance Sheet)
3. Y2003 Income Tax Return, duly stamped received by the internal revenue authority/collecting agent
4. Taxpayer's Identification Number
5. Valid and current Mayor's permit/municipal license
6. Prospective bidder's computation of Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) which shall be at least equal to the ABC, duly signed by the authorized signing official and supported with pertinent documents, i.e., financial statements and copies of on-going project contracts; or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate in an amount not lower than 10% of the ABC. The NFCC shall be computed as follows: NFCC = [(Current Asset less Current Liabilities) (K)] minus value of all outstanding projects; K = 15
7. Duly notarized statement that the consultant is not blacklisted from bidding in any Government Office, Agency, Corporation
8. Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents/information submitted for eligibility check
9. Duly notarized certification by the prospective bidder/consultant or his authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original
10. Sworn affidavit of the bidder/consultant that he or she or any officer of the corporation is not related to the Head of the Procuring Entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree
11. Company profile
12. Track record (copies of contracts for similar projects and certificate/s of achievements, if any). Must have extensive knowledge of treasury management concepts, principles and analytical techniques and demonstrated experience in overall treasury operations and up-to-date information technology supporting them (preferably with central banks).
13. Reference sites where consultancy services on treasury management had been rendered and are willing to provide detailed information concerning reference project. For each reference site, the following details should be provided:
    a. Name of the organization and contact person
    b. Current telephone number, fax number and email address of contact person
    c. Nature of consultancy service(s) rendered

Only those who comply with the above requirements will be issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,500.00. Preliminary conference/s will be conducted later for pre-selected bidders.

Pre-selected bidders should submit an initial but complete technical proposal to the BAC thru its Technical Working Group (TWG) and should be prepared to make a presentation of their proposals, if required. The TWG's review of the submitted technical proposals may lead to a revised RFP.

The BAC shall issue invitation(s) to Bid (ITB) to pre-selected bidders. In response to the ITB, the bidders should submit a final technical proposal on the revised RFP and a financial bid. The winner shall be selected on the basis of quality-based evaluation procedure. The BSP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate and indemnify the bidders for expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their proposals.

While bids by Joint Venture are acceptable, the BSP intends to contract with a single entity. Bidders as the prime contractors shall take full responsibility for all subcontracted services and must, in their bid, include sufficient and relevant information on joint-venture partners.

The winning Consultants must be ready to comply with the following:

1. Must be registered with the appropriate Philippine government regulating body to engage in consulting services
2. Must disqualify themselves and their affiliates from participating in the bidding for the supply of the TMS software product
3. Must use their best efforts to preserve the confidentiality of any business proprietary or confidential information submitted by BSP
4. Must ensure that sufficient number of qualified personnel will be assigned fulltime in the project until its full implementation

The BSP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate and indemnify the bidders for expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their proposals.

(Sgd.) Ma. DOLORES B. YUVIENCO
Chairperson

(PDI - Aug. 20, 2004)

ArtPetron winners announced

BTS Clips

WINNERS of the 4th ArtPetron National Student Art Competition will be announced on Aug. 20 in an awarding ceremony-cum-exhibit opening to be held at the Petron Mega Plaza Building in Makati. Three grand winners in the oil/acrylic category and three in the watercolor category will each receive cash prizes amounting to P50,000 plus a trophy designed and produced by National Artist for Visual Arts Napoleon Abueva. Their respective schools will get a 29" color TV. Runners-up will get a trophy plus P20,000 each. A new category, Black and White Photography, produced six grand winners who will each receive P30,000. Runners up will be given P15,000 each. The 4th ArtPetron is themed "Lumang Ani, Bagong Sali", which features harvest time, the season of plenty and the celebration of life.

Dove Bukod Tanging Filipina

THE SEARCH for Dove Bukod Tanging Filipina 2004 aims to honor young women aged 18 to 30 years of age who are engaged in the pursuit of excellence in the fields of music, dance, visual arts, literature, business and entrepreneurship and science and technology. These extraordinary young women are not just talented in their chosen field. They also extend their passion for their craft to members of their circles, devising ways of converting talent into useful endeavors. 10 finalists (2 per category) will be announced in September, and will immediately be awarded a prize package consisting of P20,000 in cash, a trophy and Dove products. Organizations, foundations, and individuals responsible for fielding winning nominations will receive a cash incentive of P10,000 in cash. Deadline of submission of duly accomplished nomination forms is 12 midnight of Aug. 21. For submission details, call 588-7282 or 812-3542.

The Philippine Eagle visits SM Davao

SEE the Philippine Eagle up close right at the mall. Davaoeños will get a chance to see a stuffed specimen of the magnificent national bird up close at the Mindanao Festival Expo at the 2nd Floor South Gallery at SM City Davao. The expo will run from Aug. 16 to Aug. 22. The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) booth will feature Diola, the first Philippine Eagle under the care of the PEF. The booth will also feature photos of Philippine eagles and eagle conservation teams at work as well as film showings. The exhibit is open to the public during mall hours.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late Natividad G. Granados was extrajudicially settled among her heirs by means of public instruments duly authenticated by the Consul of the Republic of the Philippines in New York, New York, USA under Doc. No. 006420 & 006667, Series of 2003; the Consul of the Republic of the Philippines in San Francisco, California, USA under Doc. No. 8153, Page No. 0160, Book No. XXIV-A, Series of 2003; and the Consul General of the Republic of the Philippines in Washington, District of Columbia, USA under Doc. No. A3996 & A3701, Series of 2003.

ATTY. DANIEL G. DATUIN
Attorney-in-fact
Heirs of Natividad G. Granados
«PDI--Aug. 13 & 20 & 27, 2004»

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Vacant Position For Teacher 3 Item No. OSEC-DECSB-TCH3-30020 Benigno Aquino High School DEPED Mkt.

Ecop offer action plans for job - creation

TRADE chambers under the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) are staging the Employers Summit on Employment and Industrial Relations this Aug. 23 and 24 as an initial step to help fulfill the President's agenda of creating at least six million jobs during her six-year term.

Rene Y. Soriano, Ecop president who made the announcement, said the summit output are (1) time-bound action plans that firms will undertake to protect and create specific number of jobs, and (2) policy options for government and companies to accelerate growth of the country's main job creators — the entrepreneurs.

A review of the provisions of the Labor Code has been proposed to be discussed in the summit, he said. An important item is changing the mechanism for setting minimum wages.

With the theme "Keeping the Nation At Work" (*"Negosyo At Trabaho Para sa Bayan"*), Ecop has invited Vice President Noli "Kabayan" de Castro to address the job creators on the closing day. He will be introduced by Ecop chair Miguel B. Varela. The conference at the Philippine Trade Training Center will occur simultaneously with a jobs fair and exhibition. Participants may call the summit secretariat at 897-9483/890-5005 or send e-mail to summitsecretariat@yahoo.com.

The keynote speaker is Tony Tan Caktiong, chairman/CEO of Jollibee Food Corp. Last May 29 in Monte Carlo, he was voted by a panel of peers as Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year, besting entrepreneurs from 31 other countries.

At the closing ceremonies, statements will be delivered by Robin C. Sy, president, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of commerce and Industry; Donald Dee, executive vice-president, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr., president, Philippine Exporters Confederation.

Ecop president Rene Y. Soriano will present the workshop outputs to the Vice President.

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF ONE-YEAR WASTE OIL GENERATION FOR EMB-DENR ACCREDITED WASTE TREATERS ONLY
"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : Aug. 30, 2004, 2:00 PM, Solarium Multi-Purpose Hall, Building-1 Ground Floor, NPC-Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the one year waste oil generation from the following

	Plant and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	**PANAY Diesel Power Plant-1** Brgy. Tabugon, Dingle, Iloilo Province	P 3.260 / Liter
2.	**BOHOL Diesel Power Plant** Dampas, Tagbilaran City, Bohol Island	P 3.260 / Liter
3.	**POWER BARGE – 101** Brgy. San Juan, Maribojoc, Bohol Province.	P 3.250 / Liter
4.	**POWER BARGE – 102** Brgy. Obrero, Lapuz, Iloilo City.	P 3.255 / Liter
5.	**POWER BARGE – 103** Pier, Estancia, Iloilo Province.	P 3.260 / Liter
6.	**POWER BARGE – 104** Brgy. Obrero, Lapuz, Iloilo City	P 3.260 / Liter
7.	**BATAAN Combined-Cycle Power Plant** Brgy. Luz, Limay, Bataan Province.	P 3.250 / Liter
8.	**CEBU Diesel Power Plant – 1** Colon, Naga, Cebu Province	P 4.400 / Liter

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. **PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S / CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO PhP 120,000.00.**
2. **LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN 2003 ORIGINAL (OR CERTIFIED XEROX COPY) FOR THE BIDDER OR AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY.**
3. **VALID ACCREDITATION FROM EMB-DENR FOR WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY AND AS WASTE TRANSPORTER, INCLUDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PERMIT TO TRANSPORT, WASTE MANIFEST FORM AND CERTIFICATE OF TREATMENT ALL ACKNOWLEDGED BY EMB-DENR.**

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding must present the original accreditations from EMB-DENR and may secure the official bid form at P1,000.00/set from Mr. Samuel V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Ground Floor Building-I, NPC Head Office, AGham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 924-5384. **Deadline for issuance of bid forms is 4:30 PM August 27, 2004.** Attendance to the Pre-bid Conference on August 27, 2004 at 2:00 PM is mandatory for all bidders.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI – August 19, 20 & 21 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The Bidding and Awards Committee of the Department of Agrarian Reform is inviting all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the production and delivery of office uniforms for DAR officials and rank and file employees nationwide.

Instruction to Bidders can be secured starting **August 16, 2004** from the Office of the Chief, General Services Division, located at the basement, DAR main building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of the non refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). The Approved Budget Contract is P65,000,000.00.

Terms, conditions and specifications will be discussed during the pre-bidding conference on **August 30, 2004** at HRD Conference Room, 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid.

DAR also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) **TEDDIE ELSON E. RIVERA**
Undersecretary
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI- Aug 13 & 20 2004)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPLEX, SERGING OSMEÑA BLVD., NORTH RECLAMATION AREA,
CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 2323401-04; FAX NO. (032) 2321990
E-MAIL: pparo7@cvia.net.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority through the Port District of Visayas invites interested bidders to submit Application to apply for eligibility, and subsequently to bid, if pre-qualified for the:

A.1 Name of project : DREDGING OF PORTS
B.1 Scope of Work :
I General Expenses
II Dredging Work Tapal Port, Ubay, Bohol (Volume=10,000.00 cu.m.)
III Dredging Work Jagna Port, Bohol (Volume=16,057.00 cu.m.)
IV Dredging Work Larena Port, Siquijor (Volume=10,000.00 cu.m.
C.1 Budget for the Contract : P 7,015,978.00
Source of Funding : PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration : 44 Calendar Days

A.2 Name of Project : DREDGING OF PORTS
B.2 Scope of Work :
I General Expenses
II Dredging Work San Jose Port, Antique (Volume=30,000.00 cu.m.)
C.2 Budget for the Contract : P 6,416,881.00
Source of Funding : PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration : 23 Calendar Days

D. Minimum Equipment Requirements:
1.0 1 unit Non-propelled grab type dredger, GW 320 tons with mechanically operated crane at 60 tons capacity with 3.0 cu.m grab bucket capacity
2.0 2 units Non-propelled hopper barge DWT 800T; 550 cu.m. net capacity
3.0 2 units Tugboat, 850 & 500Hp
4.0 1 unit EDM
5.0 1 unit Echosounder
6.0 2 units Theodolite

E. Required PCAB Registration & Classification : Medium "A" Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering

Bid Documents shall be issued only to eligible licensed contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents of Ph.2,000.00.

F. Experience:
Similar in nature and complexity with at least 50% of the approved budget for the Contract to be bid.

G. Cost of Pre-qualification or Eligibility Form : P 200.00
Place of Issuance : Philippine Ports Authority, Port District – Visayas, BAC Secretariat, CIP Complex, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

H. Last day of Issuance of Pre-C Forms : September 9, 2004

I. Deadline of Submission of Accomplished Pre-C/Eligibility Forms : September 16, 2004

Only contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) on Contractor's License and Registration Particulars will be issued Eligibility Forms. The Forms are available at the BAC Secretariat, CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Boulevard, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City. Interested applicants are required to bring a letter of intent and original copy of Contractor's valid PCAB License for verification/authentication purposes.

All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by EO 40 and RA 9184.

Further information may be obtained from the following:

BAC Secretariat : Tel. No. (032) 232-3401
PPA Website : www.ppa.com.ph, www.cvis.net.ph/ppa

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority.

(Sgd.) **RAUL T. SANTOS**
Port District Manager

(PDI-August 20 & 28, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XII
Tacurong City

NOTICE OF RE-AUCTION OF RAW SUGAR "B" STOCKS

The National Food Authority, Region XII, Tacurong City as authorized per AO-2K4-G-006 dated July 02, 2004 wishes to invite all interested licensed sugar traders to participate in the re-auction sale of the following sugar stocks:

PROVINCE	LOT NO.	SUGAR MILL / LOCATION	VARIETY	VOLUME (Lkg)	INDICATIVE PRICE (PhP/ Lkg)
COTABATO	1	COTABATO SUGAR CENTRAL CORP. Kilada, Matalam	RAW SUGAR "B"	2,092.26	760.00
TOTAL				2,092.26	

The auction sale of the above described sugar stocks shall be on a "WHOLE LOT" basis.

The auctioneer shall be required to post a bond equivalent to Ten Percent (10%) of the total peso value of the offer to purchase. The bond shall be in the form of Cash or Manager's/Cashier's Check payable to NFA

Only prospective auctioneers who have submitted the following documentary requirements are qualified to participate:

1. Duly certified photocopy of sugar trading license/registration.
2. If through representative, Special Power of Attorney (SPA) for single proprietorship and Board Resolution or Secretary's Certificate for corporation. The representative must be an employee of the owner (in case of single proprietorship) or company/corporation he/she will be representing.
3. For authentication purposes, original copy of sugar trading license/registration must be presented before the Auction Committee.

The re-auction sale shall be conducted at the Office of the Provincial Manager, NFA Cotabato Provincial Office, Kidapawan City on the following schedule:

	ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
1.	Issuance of Invitation to Bid and Tender Form	August 23-24, 2004	8.00 AM – 5:00 PM
2.	Pre-Auction Conference	August 27, 2004	9:00 AM
3.	Auction Proper	August 27, 2004	10.00 AM

The tender forms may be obtained at NFA Cotabato Provincial Office, Kidapawan City after payment of the non-refundable fee of PhP 200.00. For further information, you may inquire with the office of the Provincial Manager, NFA Cotabato Provincial Office, Kidapawan City thru Telephone Nos. 064-278-4268 / 288-1743 or at the NFA Regional Office XII, Tacurong City thru Telephone Nos. 064-200-3803 / 064-384-1247.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECT AND INFORMALITY FOUND THEREIN OR ACCEPT OFFERS WHICH IN ITS JUDGEMENT ARE MOST REASONABLE AND ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **PANGALIAN B. BUSRAN**
Acting Assistant Regional Manager/
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – August 20 & 21, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to apply for eligibility and bid for 1,600 units of Manual Typewriters for the Lower Courts.

The approved budget for this bidding is **P15,747,000.00**

The winning bidder shall deliver the required units within sixty (60) working days upon receipt of Purchase Order (PO).

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Committee on Bids or COB Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Prospective bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from the Secretariat Committee on Bids, Property Division, Supreme Court, after payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand (P1,000.00) pesos**. For additional information contact the *Secretary, Atty. Ennar C. Cabanilla at Telefax 4042731 or Norma C. Josue at Telefax 524-7425.*

I. **PRE-BID CONFERENCE**
The pre-bid conference shall be on 3 September 2004, 2:00 p.m. at the Old Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila

II. **SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**
The legal requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on 10 September 2004, 2:00 p.m. at the Old Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila

III. **OPENING OF BIDS**
Bids of eligible bidders will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives on 15 September 2004 at 3:30 p.m. at Old Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

August 19, 2004.

JOSE P. PEREZ
Chairman
By: (Sgd.) **FELIPA B. ANAMA**
Vice-Chairperson

(PDI–August 20 & 27, 2004)

ERRATUM

In the ad of Land Bank of the Philippines, published in this newspaper yesterday, August 19, 2004, the internet address should have been http://www.landbank.com/landbank/htm/npaauction.htm.

Our Apologies.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
DIVISION PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT
Bids and Awards Committee
San Jose de Buenavista, Antique

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Loan No. 4108-PH

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter referred to as IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
2. The DepEd Division Project Implementation Support Unit (DepEd-DPISU) for TEEP through the Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Construction/Repair of school buildings itemized in six (6) packages (the "Works") in different municipalities in the Province of Antique. The following are the project packages:

Package/District/School	NC	R	Scope of Works
Package V - Project Reference No. 02-005-2004			
Hamtic			
1. Malandog Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPFSB
Sibalom			
2. Bari Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom STSB
Sub-total, Package V		***5***	
Package VI - Project Reference No. 02-006-2004			
Sibalom			
1. Iglanot Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPFSB
2. Villafont Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package VI		***5***	
Package VII - Project Reference No. 02-007-2004			
Bugasong			
1. Zarragosa Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPFSB
2. Camangahan Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPFSB
Sub-total, Package VII		***6***	
Package VIII - Project Reference No. 02-008-2004			
Culasi			
1. Carit-an Elementary School	2		Construction of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom SB
2. San Antonio Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package VIII	***2***	***3***	
Package IX – Project Reference No. 02-009-2004			
Culasi			
1. Biladton Elementary School	3		Construction of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom SB
2. Buhi Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package IX			
Package X – Project Reference No. 02-010-2004			
Culasi			
Culasi North Elementary School	6		Construction of One (1) Unit Two (2) Storey - Six (6) Classroom SB
Sub-total, Package X	6		
TOTAL	***11***	***22***	

Legend:

NC	- New Construction	*BLSB*	- Bagong Lipunan Type School Building
R	- Repair	*MPFSB*	- Marcos Pre-Fab Type School Building
SB	- School Building	*STSB*	- Special Type School Building

Local contractors should be accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with a category of at least **Small B for Packages V to IX and at least Medium A for Package X.**

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the DepEd Division Office of Antique, Binirayan Street, San Jose de Buenavista, Antique starting **August 20, 2004** for a nonrefundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00) per package. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of two and half percent (2.5%) of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education - Division Office of Antique, Binirayan Street, San Jose de Buenavista, Antique on or before **10:00 a.m., September 20, 2004**, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. Prior to Bid Opening, a Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **10:00 a.m., September 9, 2004** at the same address indicated above.

(Sgd.) **VICTOR G. DE GRACIA**
Division Bids and Awards Committee
Chairperson

(PDI - Aug. 20, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. 2004-057

Ref. No.: PB-040709-LE0099 / PR No.: SD-04-007560

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO), BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) FOR HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/ contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; OR
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; OR
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; OR
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/ or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract; Provided, however, That Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); OR
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. Procurement of:
   SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING FIREARMS:
   SCHEDULE I – **THREE (3) PIECES OF SUB-MACHINE GUN (CALIBER 9MM X 19)**
   SCHEDULE II – **TEN (10) PIECES OF M-16 RIFLE (CALIBER 5.56 MM X 45)**
3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder is specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents to be issued to prospective bidders.
   The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid is *P255,000.00* and *P980,000.00* respectively from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting **August 06, 2004 to September 13, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **ONE THOUSAND Pesos (P1,000.00)** per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **September 02, 2004, 3:00 PM** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **10:00 AM on September 14, 2004** at the Admin Conference room, G/F TransCo Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – August 6 & 20, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE SCRAP/JUNK ITEMS
"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : September 2, 2004, 2.00 PM, Solanum Multi-Purpose Rooms, Bldg.-1 Ground Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items located at Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), Napot Point, Morong Bataan.

	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	One (1) lot of scrap items consisting of the following	P 18,493,563.00/lot
a)	assorted cables, insulated & bare	Block 8, MCD, BNPP
b)	ductile pipes, flat bars, steel plates	Block 9, MCD, BNPP
c)	various crane parts, scaffoldings, steel planks, pedestals, skids, pipes, plates, channels & other scrap metals	Switchyard Area BNPP
d)	scaffolding, channels, rebar cutter, steel bender, steel tower cuttings over-head cranes, steel forms & assorted scrap metals	Rebar Fabrication Area-BNPP
e)	One (1) lot junk heavy equipment motor vehicles, genset, steel ramps junk auto parts, lathe machines, trussos, crane booms, and other scrap metals	Motor Pool Area BNPP
f)	One (1) lot scrap items consisting of wire ropes, heating and welding machines, gas cylinders, and other unserviceable items	TEMP-FACIL BNPP
g)	Seven (7) units cylindrical tanks, various sizes	Various Areas BNPP
h)	One (1) steel structure	MIESCOR Fire Station

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2003 ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY OF THE BIDDER OR AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY AND ONE (1) COPY OF VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVERS LICENSE, GSIS ID, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P2,000.00/set from S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 PM Aug. 30, 2004. Site or Ocular Inspection and Pre-Bid Conference for the items for sale at BNPP shall be at 1:00 PM August 31, 2004.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI – August 19, 20 & 21, 2004)

Manila Memorial Park
Leading the Way
SUCAT, Parañaque - HOLY CROSS, Novaliches - DASMARIÑAS, Cavite
Plaridel, BULACAN - Liloan, CEBU - Ma-a, DAVAO
(632) 815 1875 or 90 ; (632) 893 8374 to 77

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK FORT BONIFACIO
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Viewing Chapels
Crematory
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Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

EDWARDO E. ENDAYA
Died on August 16, 2004

"Papa, your presence will be deeply missed, but the memories of your love will live in us forever"

Loving wife **Remedios**, children **Ernie & Lita, Edwina, Eduane & Tina & Tyrone**, grandchildren **Paul, Dylan & Talon**; brother **Ernesto J. Endaya** & sister **Priscilla Sta. Rosa**.

Our Dearly Beloved Mama

NG SIU HUA vda. de CHUA CO KIONG

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 18, 2004 at the age of 86.

Co-Founder
MALABON LONGLIFE TRADING CORP.
KEMICOM ENTERPRISES

Her loving children **Eng Chong** (†), **Manuel & Judy, Ernesto & Anita, Carmelita** (†) **& Wu Wei Guo, Eduardo & Betty, Marcelino** (†), **Lisa & Robert T. Yu, Benito & Vilma, Conchita & Leonardo A. Ong, Danilo & Jane, Fernando & Wilhma, Teresita & Manuel C. Diu, William & Cely**; her grandchildren **Ronald, Andrew, Catherine, Jacqueline, Marjorie, Christian Oliver** and **Yufei, Candice Cecille** and **Sherwin L. Sy, Erwin Hubert, Ernest Lester, Richard, Ryan, Lionel, Larraine, Beatrice, Sharon, Stephanie, Shendee, Richmond Lawrence, Frialyn, Sharlyn, Charles Lester, Louie Chester, Darrell, Johanna, John Denzel, Kristine, Aileen, Steven, Katrina Diane, Gladwin, Sherwin, Wesley, Wilver** and **Carlyn**; her great-grandchildren **Sean Justin, Jet Cedric** and **Dane Weinbergh Ezekiel**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Superior Chapel (New Building) of the Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Mass will be held everyday at 3:30 p.m.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.
Sunday, 22 August 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Bids and Awards Committee
Division of Zamboanga Sibugay

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

ZSNCB-2004-031-135

August 20, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the *Japan Bank for International Cooperation* towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under World Bank Loans.*
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following:

   Construction of 1 unit - 6CL (Two Storey) School Building in Mabuhay Central Elementary School, Brgy. Poblacion, Mabuhay, ZS
3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the Division Office of Zamboanga Sibugay with address at Brgy. Tirso Babiera, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay for a nonrefundable fee of Php 2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education - Division of Zamboanga Sibugay on or before **9:00 a.m., September 21, 2004**, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. For clarification, a Pre-bid Conference will be conducted on **9:00 a.m., September 14, 2004** at the Office of the Schools Division Superintendent, Division of Zamboanga Sibugay, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay.

(Sgd.) **ROGELIO A. GOMEZ**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee
Division of Zamboanga Sibugay

(PDI - Aug 20, 2004)

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG FUND) is inviting Contractors/Suppliers to a public bidding for the following requirements:

Qty.	Particulars	Agency Budget Ceiling	Cost of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)	Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference
301 sets	Desktop Computers (Cat. 2B)	P 16,254,000.00	P 3,000.00	Aug. 25, 2004 1:30 pm
67 units	Laptop Computers	P 5,628,000.00	P 1,000.00	Aug. 27, 2004 1:30 pm

Eligibility Requirements, Terms of Reference and Bid forms may be obtained from the Procurement Section, Task Force-General Services at Rm. 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Ave., Makati City starting **August 16, 2004.**

Submission of Eligibility Requirements & opening of bids which will be conducted at Rm. 602, 6th Floor, HDMF Multi-Purpose Hall. The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Ave., Makati City is tentatively scheduled, as follows:

Particulars	Date – Time
Desktop Computers (Cat. 2B)	September 8, 2004 – 1:30 p.m.
Laptop Computers	September 10, 2004 – 1:30 p.m.

The HDMF reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government. Further, the HDMF assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Cesar V. Racoma/Mr. Nazario U. Benedicto at 811-42-62, 811-42-79 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at hdmfgpis@info.com.ph.

(Sgd.) **EMMALINDA B. FARIA**
Senior Vice President, Technical Support Group
Chair, BAC-GS

(PDI–August 13 & 20, 2004)

Heritage Park receives consumer award

THE HERITAGE Park in Fort Bonifacio was recently presented with the 2003 National Shopper's Choice Award for being the number one memorial park in the Philippines.

On hand to receive the annual award, recently held at the Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City was Heritage Park's director for property sales, Emmanuel Velandria.

Ever since opening to the public in 2000, Heritage Park has been the frequent recipient of numerous awards and accolades, and is considered by both consumers and its peers in the memorial service industry to be the leading provider of funeral and memorial services in the country today.

Industry insiders believe this will be further bolstered by the recent opening of Heritage Park's mortuary and crematory, which now enables the park to provide a full range of memorial services to the general public. Together with its renowned world-class facilities, this promises to further strengthen the park's leadership in the country's memorial service industry.

The National Shoppers' Choice Annual Awards honors and recognizes companies that have excelled in their respective fields of business based on the criteria of product quality, company reputation, brand recognition, and consumer service.

The annual awards event is a joint undertaking of the Asia-Pacific Shoppers' Choice Foundation, Shoppers' Choice Magazine, Essence Magazine Inc, Essence Privilege Card, Hernz KPMR Marketing Inc and the Asian-Philippine Association of Marketing Professionals. Heritage Park was chosen as the National Shoppers' Choice for 2003, after a survey conducted of more than 100,000 members and non-members of Essence Privilege Card revealed the park to be their number one choice in the memorial service industry.

Located in Fort Bonifacio, Heritage Park is 5 minutes away from the Manila Golf Club and Manila Polo Club. It is accessible from three major thoroughfares, Edsa, via McKinley Road, South Superhighway via Lawton Avenue and Circumferential Road 5 (C5), and is also a stone's throw away from the Global City and the Makati Commercial District.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila 1103
Tel. Nos. 372-50-57 * 372-50-61
Fax Nox. 372-50-48 * 372-50-42

INVITATION TO APPLY ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources/Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of **"Various Aqua Feed."**

Bid form together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

Sealed bids will be received and open at the BFAR, Conference Room, Quezon City, not later than 2:00 PM on **Sept. 13, 2004.**

Interested bidder are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: Photo copies of Business License, Certification Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (Original copies to be shown for authentication purposes).

This office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the BAC is the most advantageous to the government. The BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI – August 20, 2004)

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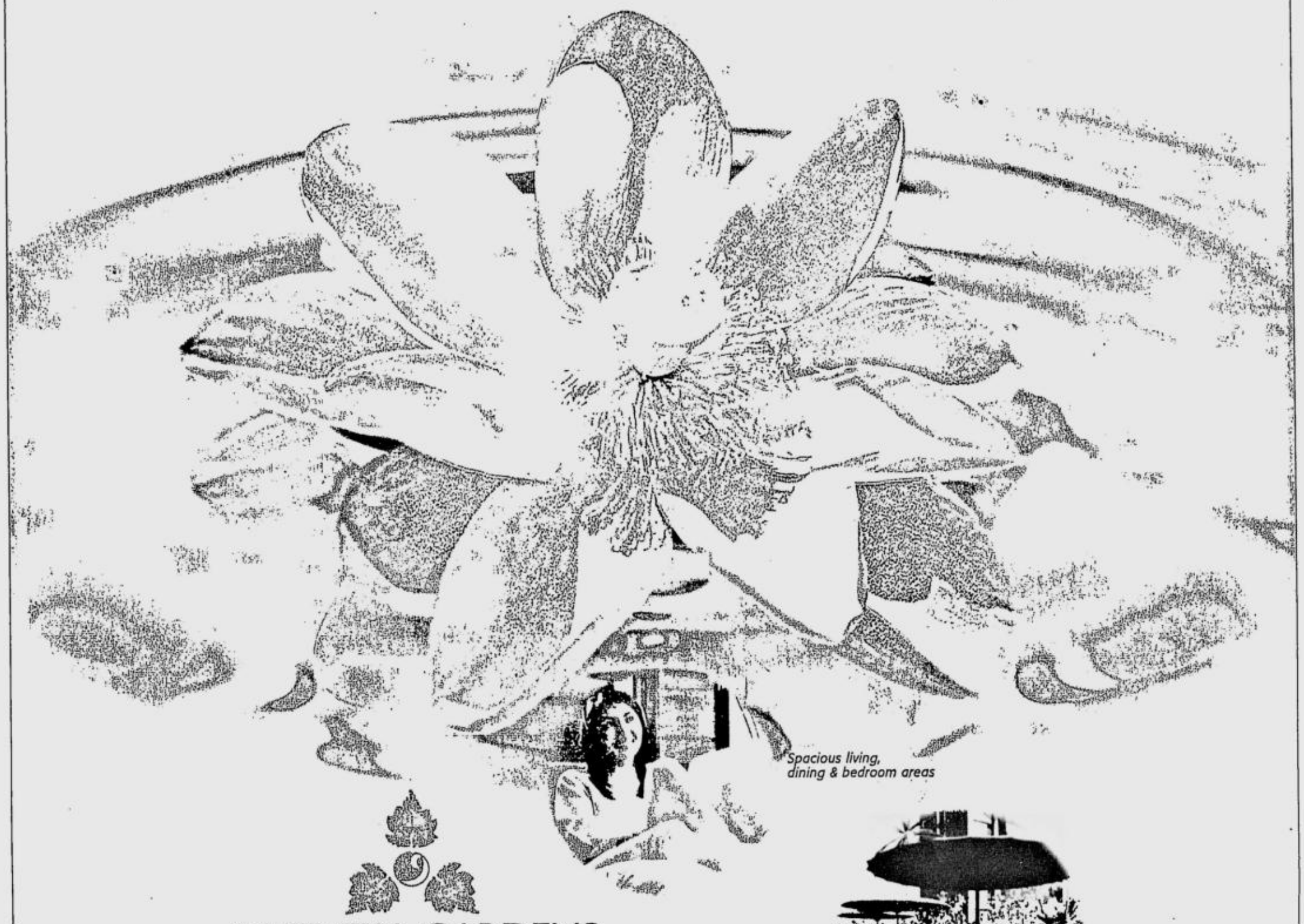

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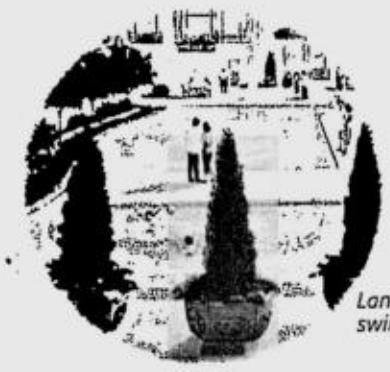

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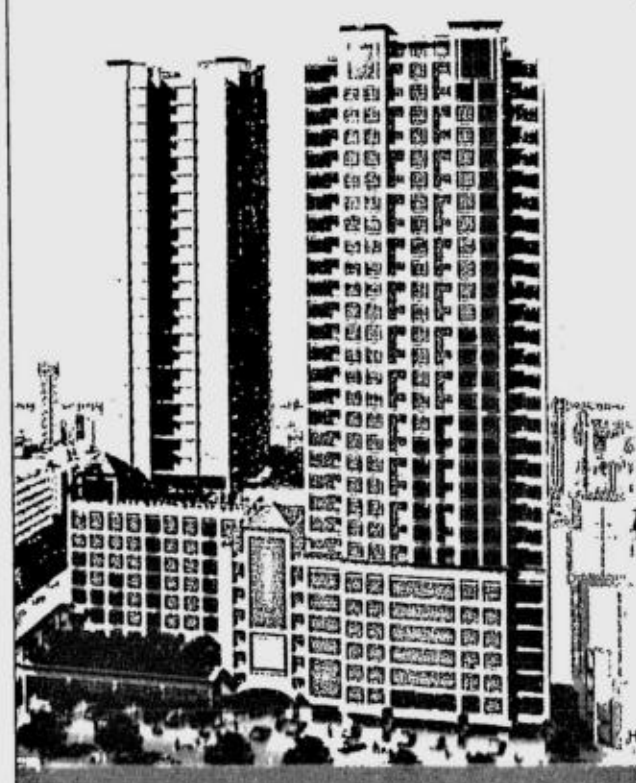

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Editor Louie C. Camino

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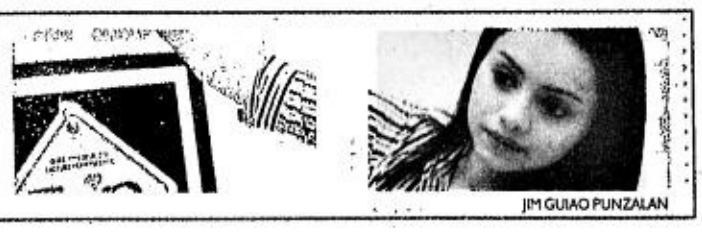

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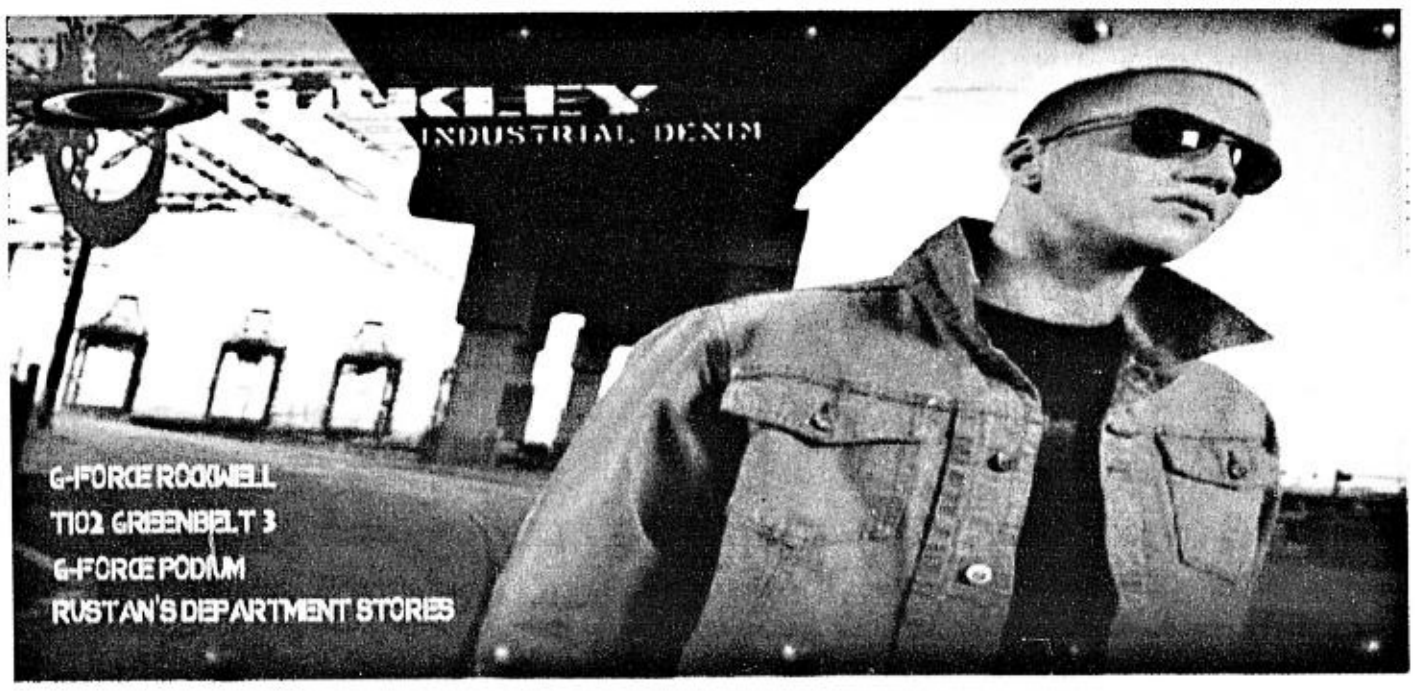


Together for real

TOUGH TEAM. Instead of breaking up, the love team of Perla Adea and Romy Mallari endures. JOEL SOL CRUZ

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

THE SEVENTIES were the decade of the love teams in Philippine Tinseltown. There were Vi and Bot—Vilma Santos and Edgar Mortiz. There were Guy and Pip—Nora Aunor and Tirso Cruz III, who instead of a love child had a love doll they named Maria Leonora Teresa, which became almost as popular as the stars themselves.

YESTERDAY And then there were Perla Adea and Romy Mallari.

Even before they became a team, Perla and Romy were already popular young stars, singing and dancing on TV and doing harmless roles in movies.

The late Tony Santos Sr., the actor and movie-TV director, threw them together in the top-rating musical variety show, "D'Sensation."

On the set of the program, the Perla-Romy romance bloomed.

Two-year courtship

Together, Perla and Romy did nearly 20 movies such as "Young Lovers," "Love Letters" and "Dalagang Nayon." They were also on radio, on dzXL's "Operetang Putol-Putol" with Manolo Favis.

When the popularity of the love teams waned, the stars drifted apart and went their separate ways, either persisting in show business or opting to go back to private life. Perla and Romy ended up together for real long after their make-believe love had faded away.

On Oct. 3, 1973, a year after they became sweethearts, Perla and Romy were married.

"I courted her for two years," Romy shares now. "I had a hard time courting her. On TV, she wouldn't even allow me to hold her hand unless the director told her we had to do it in front of the camera."

Today, the marriage of Perla and Romy is known as one of the few really sturdy unions in show business. Their 31-year marriage has produced six children. The first two, Ferdinand, 30, and Maria Imelda, 27, were named after the late former president and his first lady, who were close to the Mallaris.

Pregnant graduate

"Ferdinand is an engineer and Imelda is a banking and finance graduate who works at Metrobank," Perla says with pride. "With Imelda, we already have one grandchild who is now 2 years old. We are excited again with the coming of our second *apo*. Imelda is scheduled to give birth again in October."

The other Mallari children are Mary Claire, 26, a mass communications graduate; Marie Sienna, 21, an accountant; Lorenzo, 16, a high school senior in Novaliches; and Christy Anne, 10, a fifth grader.

"I was pregnant with Sienna when I finished my business administration course at Sienna College," Perla explains. "That's where her name came from."

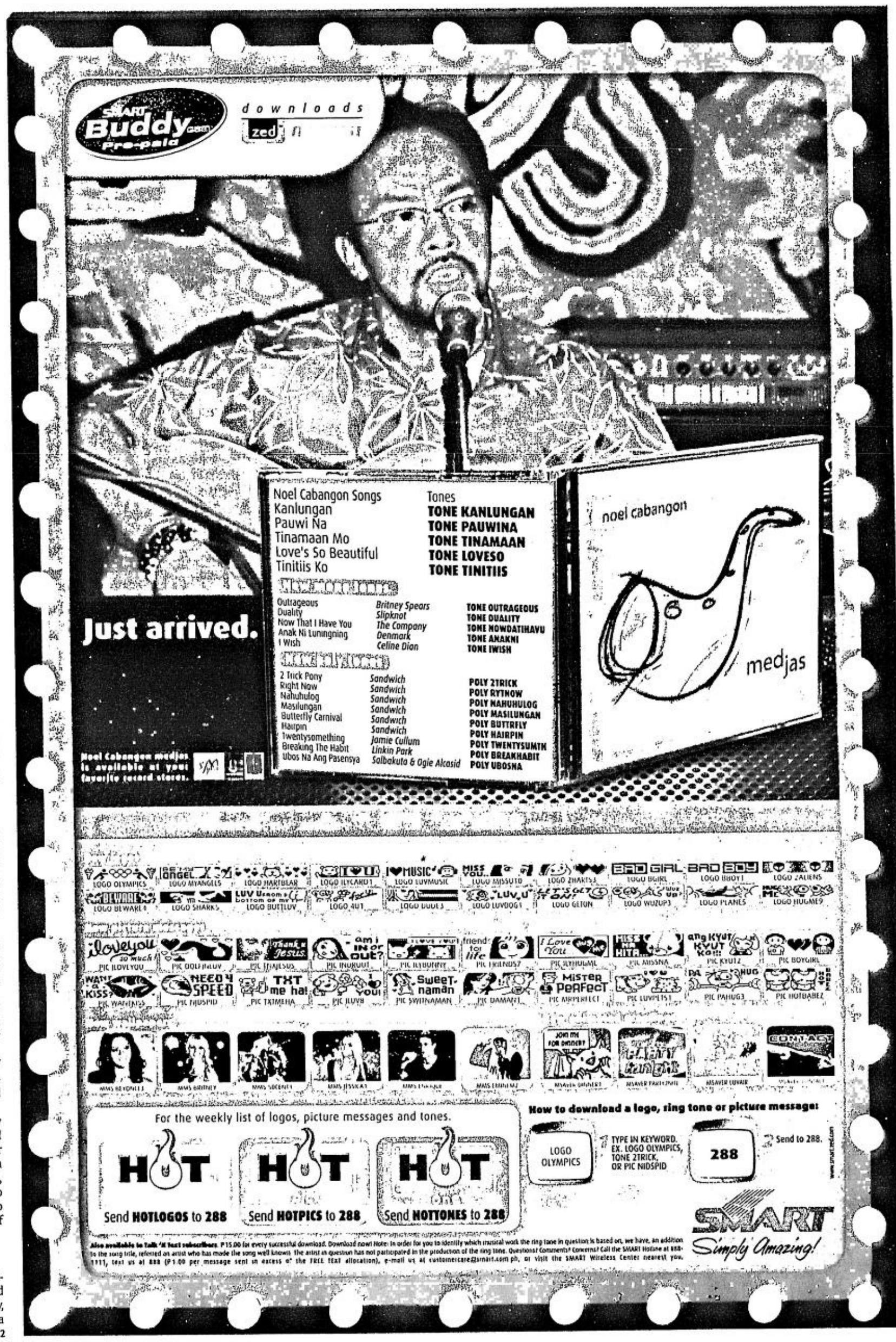
After their wedding, Perla accepted less TV and movie assignments. Their last movie together was "Dalagang Nayon," which starred Vilma Santos, in 1978.

"I decided to devote my time to my family and to raising my kids," Perla says. "But I missed show biz, especially my friends. Our contemporaries, aside from Edgar, Vilma, Nora and Tirso, are Esperanza Fabon, Darius Razon, Walter Navarro and Jay Ilagan (the last two are deceased). Espie and I are still in touch up to now. She invited us to the 18th birthday of her daughter two years ago."

Kind, patient

Perla taught Pilipino and Science at the Sacred Heart Academy and later at Holy Child Academy, both in Novaliches in Quezon City, where the Mallaris reside. She also works as a

TOGETHER/ C2



Together for real

From page C1

real estate broker.

Romy continued working in movies and on TV. He was in "Prinsipe Abante" with (the late) Chiquito and in "Blood Hero," starring martial arts superstar Meng Fei and also shown in other countries.

More recently, he appeared with Rudy Fernandez in "Diskarte" and "Huli Mo, Huli Ko." On TV, he was cast in the now-defunct daily afternoon drama, "Valiente," which starred Tirso Cruz III.

Romy, a former barangay captain in Novaliches, now works as a political consultant for Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, who is also a movie star.

Asked about the secret of their lasting marriage, Romy says with a smile, "She's kind, while I'm patient. But seriously, it's important to make Christ the center of your marriage. Everything else will work out when you do that."

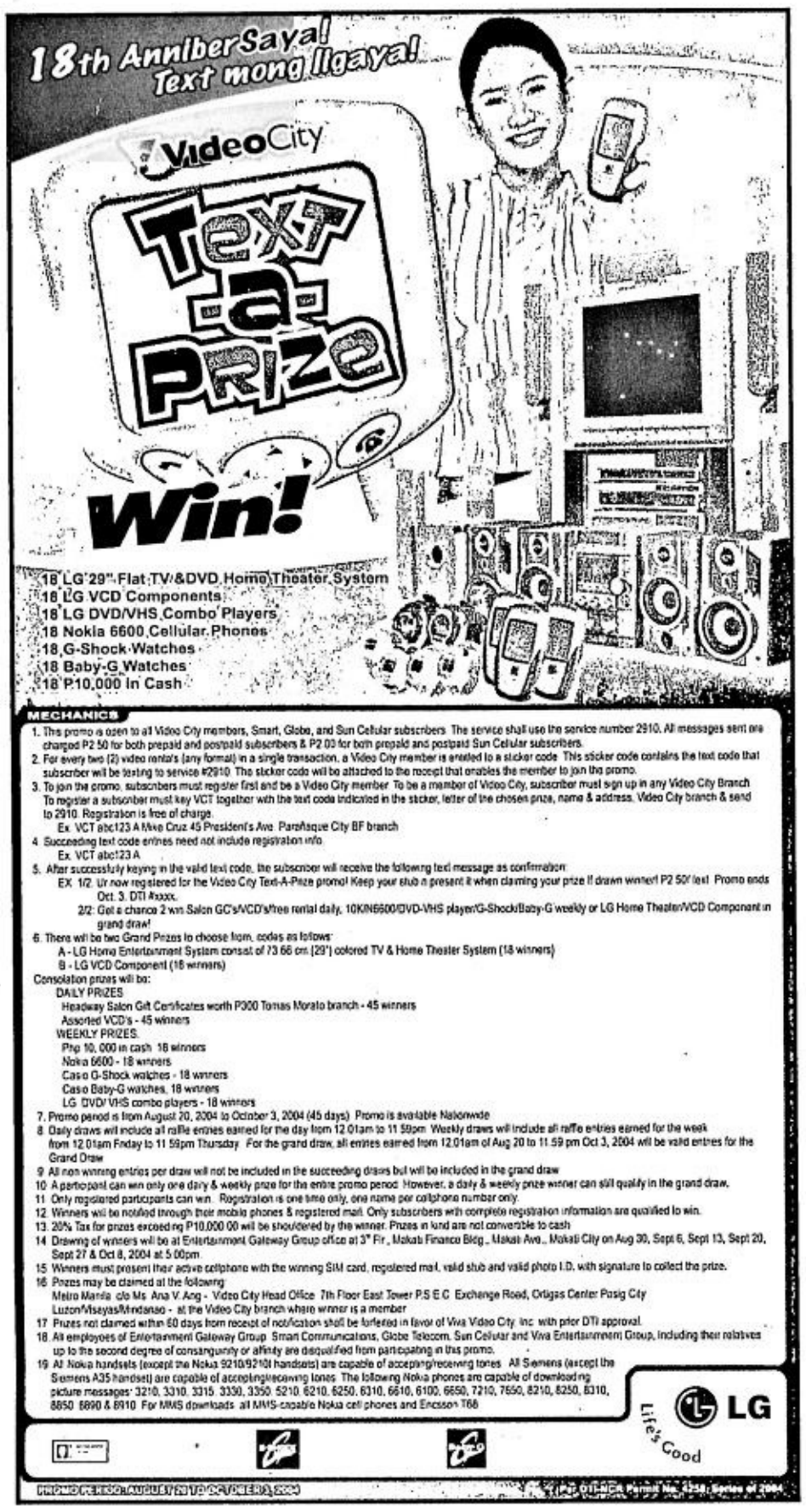
On TV again

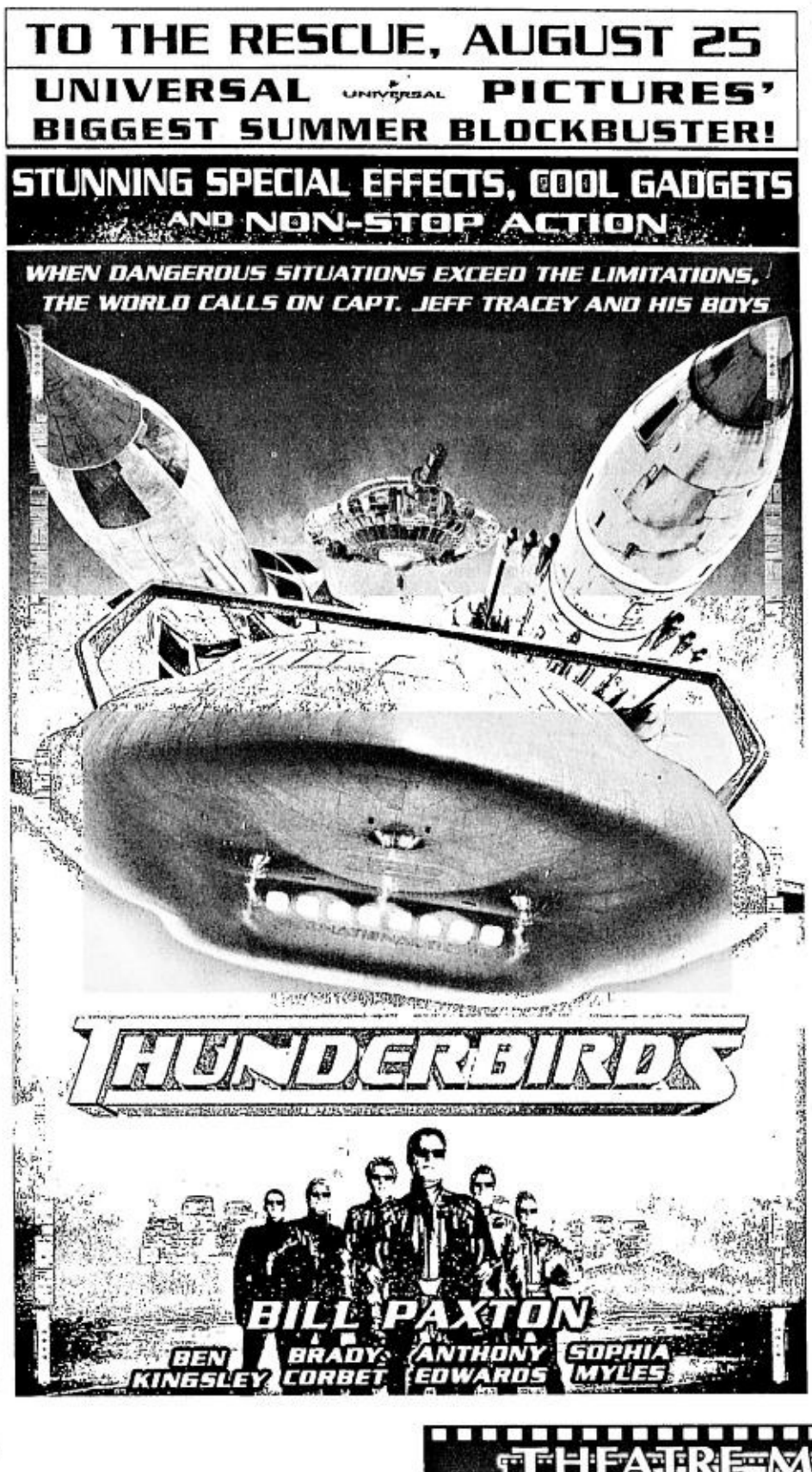
Last October, Perla and Romy were among special guests in ABS-CBN's grand 50th anniversary extravaganza at the PICC, where they both recreated a bit of their "D'Sensation" days with a song-and-dance number.

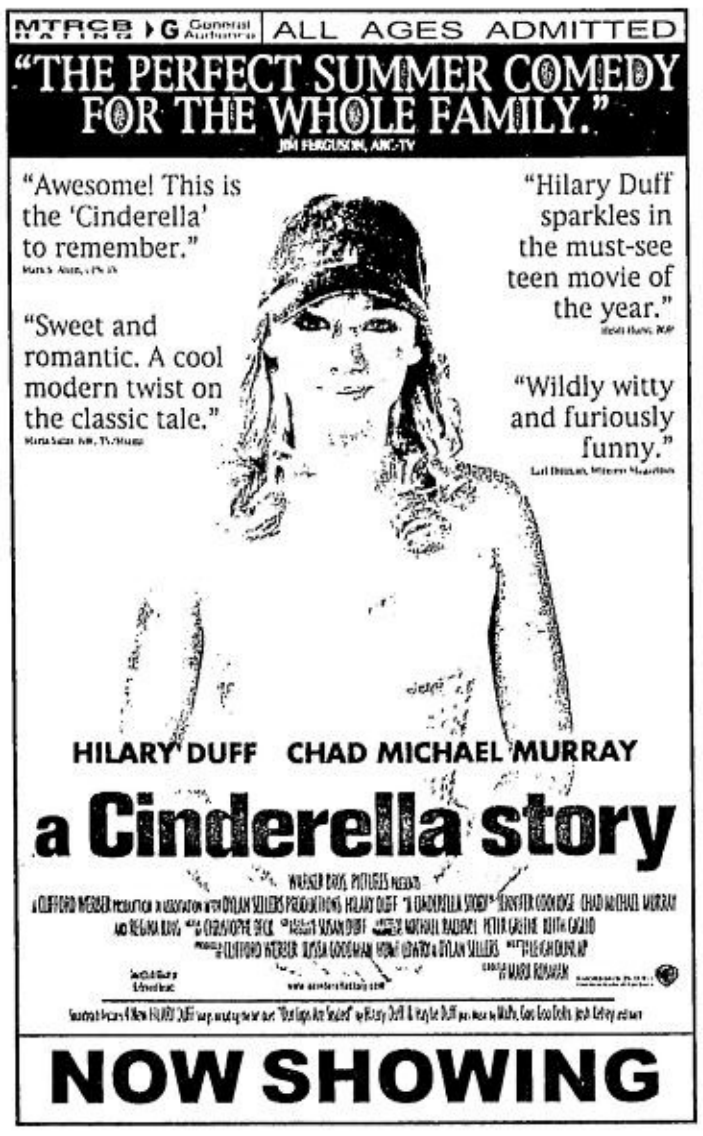
That appearance apparently led to their starring in a new show in the network. Starting Aug. 16, Romy and Perla are mainstays in the daily afternoon dramedy, "Maid in Heaven." The new show has a star-studded cast, including Assunta de Rossi, Cherry Pie Picache, Dulce, the Ja-Boom Twins, Candy Pangilinan, Mickey Ferriols, Aleck Bovick, Carlo Maceda, Joy Viado, Bella Flores, Manilyn Reynes and new comedienne Pokwang.

"We didn't think twice about making a comeback," Perla says. "We're excited about being seen again regularly on TV. It's been a long time. When I had my first taping day in Antipolo for "Maid in Heaven" things were a bit unfamiliar. But I was able to adjust right away. We won't mind doing movies, too, if there are offers."

Romy adds, "We won't be a package deal. Once in show biz, always in show biz. When you're a movie star, it's for life."







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Waterfront is overall champ in Cebu Goes Culinary 2004

HOTEL, Resort and Restaurant Association of Cebu (HRRAC) held a very successful Cebu Goes Culinary and the Foodex 2004 Food and Beverage Exhibition July 17 and 18 at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino's plush Pacific Grand Ballroom. The biennial event convened the culinary experts from all over the country to witness, judge and experience a showdown of talents and skills.

For the second time in a row, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino (WCCHC) bagged first place as overall champion of the competition, winning the most number of medals in the professional category.

WCCHC won four gold medals for fruit and vegetable carving (with Window to the World theme), live fruit and vegetable carving (freestyle), creative Asian family-style cooking and live ice carving (freestyle).

Seven silver medals were earned for pralines, creative cakes, butter carving showpiece (carnival theme), table setting showpiece, market basket classical including two silver awards for cocktail mixing. Four bronze medals were also earned for plated appetizer, set menu, cold platter dessert and dress the cake (Father's Day theme) competitions.

WCCHC was also the overall champion during the Cebu Goes Culinary competition held two years ago.

FIESTA SAN MIGUEL'S KIDDIE CORNER

Treat your family to a fun-filled Sunday at Dusit Hotel Nikko's popular all-Filipino restaurant Fiesta San Miguel. Different activities and entertainment are lined-up for the kid's enjoyment at the restaurant's Kiddie Corner. On Aug. 22, kids will be regaled with storytelling and mascot appearances by Enchanted Kingdom. Let their creative talents be unleashed as Filstar Distributors Corporation share the secrets of Airblow by Blopens on Aug. 29. Little Tykes also joins the event. To join, simply avail of the restaurant's Sunday brunch buffet pegged at P750++ for adults and P375++ for kids (aged 3 to 12). Fiesta San Miguel is located at Dusit Hotel Nikko. For queries or reservations, please call 867-3333 local 3308.

Mandarin deli offers food delivery

MANDARIN Oriental, Manila has introduced Mandarin Deli's delivery service, via 459-FOOD which brings an array of light hearty meals, from fresh crisp salads to fanciful pasta creations, gourmet sandwiches, freshly baked cakes and other gustatory delights, to homes and offices within Makati and adjoining suburbs within a 30-minute radius from the hotel.

By calling 459-3663 (459-FOOD), Mandarin Deli's best-sellers - from the Mandarin Club Sandwich, Parma Ham Focaccia Sandwich, Beef Burger, or Open-faced Salmon Sandwich, to Mandarin Chef Salad, Classic Caesar Salad, The Healthy Mandarin Salad Bowl; to Australian Rib Eye, Chicken Curry, Beef Lasagne, Tagliatelle Pasta, Nasi Goreng, Teriyaki-glazed Norwegian Salmon Filet, Leek and Smoked Salmon Quiche, and desserts such as Tiramisu Cake, Warm Strudel with whipped cream and vanilla sauce -- and other delectable fare are brought to customers' doorstep, with a minimum purchase of P250.

Delivery service is between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., daily. For details or a copy of the full Mandarin Oriental food delivery menu, call the Mandarin Deli at 750 8888.

Bocarinos wine dinner series at New World

NEW WORLD Renaissance Hotel's stylish creative continental restaurant Bocarinos holds the next event of the Bocarinos Wine Dinner Series on Wednesday, August 25, 6:30 p.m. The Bocarinos Wine Dinner Series is a line-up evening affairs that highlight perfectly paired great food and wines meticulously prepared by the restaurant's culinary artists. It is a night for food lovers and oenophiles. The six course dinner including wine is offered at P1,700 net.

Featured wines of the Bocarinos Wine Dinner are from the Beringer Vineyards in Napa Valley, California. Feast on: Charred Pacific Swordfish marinated in Calamansi and Garden Herbs paired with Beringer Stone Cellars Chardonnay 2001; Nicoise Potato Tart topped with Braised Quail paired with Beringer Stone Cellars Sauvignon Blanc 2002; Sorbet of Iced Mango and Lemongrass paired with Beringer White Zinfandel 2003; Osso Buco on Saffron Risotto with Lemon Gremolata and Parmesan Cracknel paired with Beringer Stone Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon 2001. Dessert is a lovely Warm Chocolate Cake accompanied by Caramel Balsamic Ice Cream paired with Beringer Founder's Estate Merlot 2003.

Capping the exquisite dinner menu is Hazelnut Glazed Goat's Cheese served with selected Digestives.

Only limited seats are available. For tickets, call 8116888.

From the Executive Plaza Hotel Billboard

WATCH out for "The Heroes Day Weekend" where Cajun Street and Kidd Creole meet at the Rio Bar Café of the Executive Plaza Hotel....Crossroads cuisine on Aug. 27 and 28. Be there when it happens! For inquiries and reservations, call Rio Bar Café at 523-1000. The Executive Plaza Hotel is located at 1630 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila.

NYOY VOLANTE AND THE MANNOS AT THE BELLEVUE

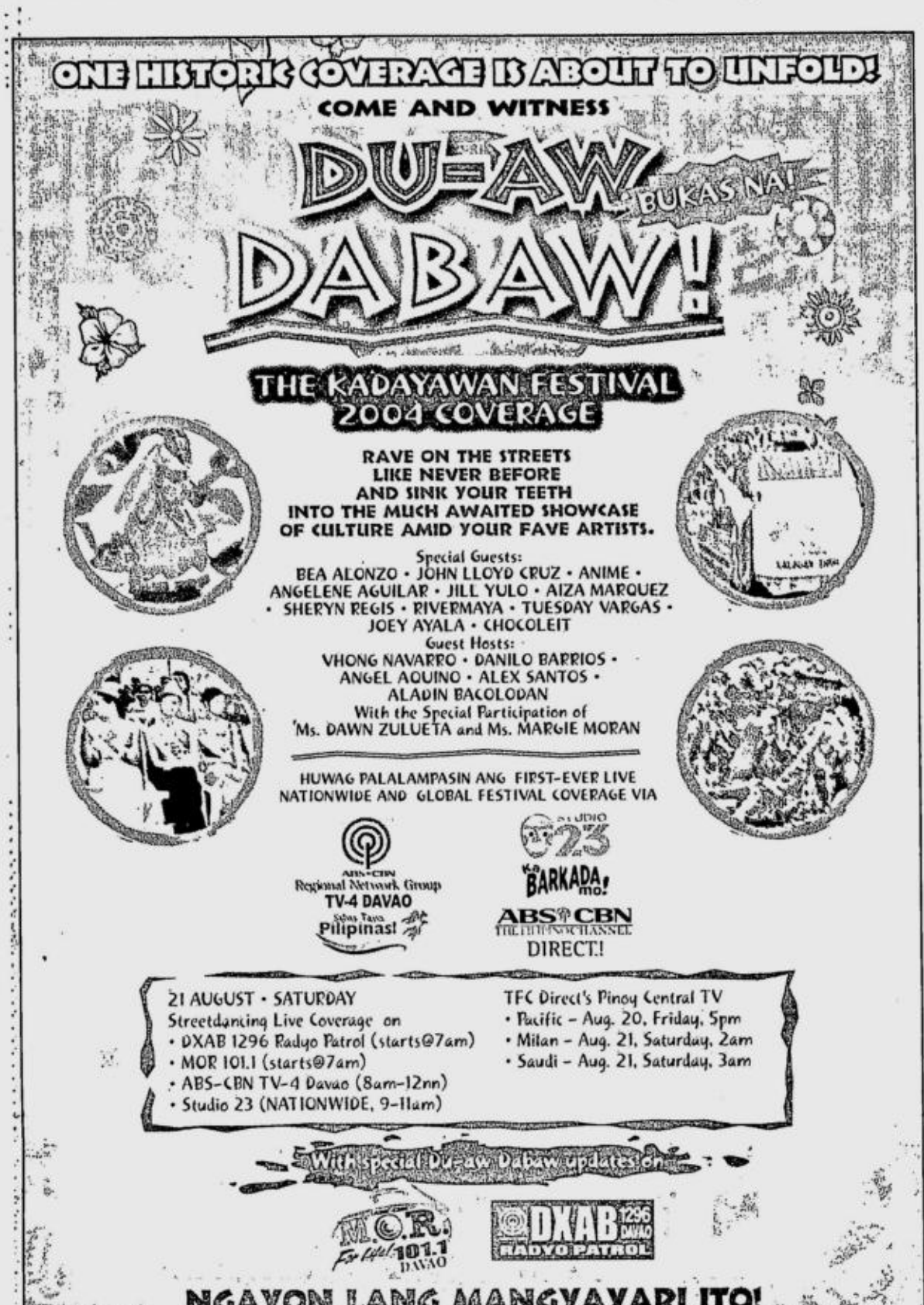
The Bellevue Hotel serenaded guests with a one-of-a-kind musical treat recently in Alabang. An evening of acoustic bliss with a back-to-back concert featuring Nyoy Volante and His Mannos and Acoustic Foursome at The Bellevue's rooftop, the 20/20 Bar and Entertainment Center, had Bellevue regulars, shrieking fans and music lovers singing in tune with their favorite melodies and love songs. With breathtaking views of the Manila night sky as their backdrop, guests were put to the acoustic mood even more. 20/20, Alabang's cradle of commotion gets its name from its location-the 20th floor- as well as its clear unobstructed view of the magnificent metropolis. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Erratum

LAST week's Wine and Dine article featuring Wine of the Month Corte Viola Prosecco (White wine), Merlot Veneto (Red Wine), Café Uno's Continental Flavors, Lobby Lounge's Happy Hour, Café Fortuna and Verandah Café's Sandwiches and Specialties should have mentioned Waterfront Hotel as the venue.

ENTERTAINMENT

MORE SHOW BIZ STORIES /A30-32



Angelika a no-show

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PROMISE UNFULFILLED. Angelika's handlers say the promoter failed to pay her in full.

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Marinel R. Cruz

MAASIN CITY—About 3,000 people flocked to the gymnasium in this Southern Leyte city last Saturday to watch the concert of singer/actress Angelika dela Cruz.

The show began and several performers did their thing, but Angelika was a no-show.

In the middle of the show, a representative of the concert organizers came up on stage to announce that the star from the ABS-CBN Talent Center was not coming at all. Boos and jeers rang filled the Maasin City gym.

About 100 disappointed people were said to be thinking of filing a case against the show's organizers for refusing to refund the money they paid for their concert tickets.

According to the ABS-CBN Talent Center in Quezon City, Angelika did not show up in Maasin because the show's promoter did not honor her contract with the young actress.

Teeda Serdan was not able to provide the required 50 percent of Angelika's talent fee, which Serdan was supposed to give upon the signing of contract, it said.

The Talent Center handles Angelika's schedules.

"Still, Angelika flew to nearby Tacloban City on the day of the concert, after the promoter promised to give her the full payment upon her arrival," Talent Center told INQUIRER Entertainment last Wednesday. "What the promoter wanted to give Angelika was not even half the agreed talent fee."

Because she flew to Tacloban, Angelika missed one episode of "EK Channel," which she co-hosts with Marvin Agustin and Rica Peralejo every Saturday.

"She was very disappointed because she had really prepared for the (Maasin) show," said a Talent Center representative. "But she also feels bad for the producer. I'm sure (Serdan) didn't want that to happen."

In Maasin, Serdan said Angelika's handlers refused to accept the check for the actress' talent fee, when they met in Tacloban City a few hours before the concert, because the handlers wanted cash.

A City Hall lawyer in Maasin City, who asked not to be identified, said he was helping the ticket-holders gather evidence, like streamers and tickets, to be used in filing a case of breach of contract against the show's organizers. The concert was co-sponsored by the Diocese of Maasin's Our Lady of Assumption Parish (Olap) and the Alpha Phi Omega (APO) for the city's annual fiesta.

Tickets to the show went for P3,000 (VIP), P1,000, P500, P300, and P150. The Maasim gym has a sitting capacity of 5,000.

One of the buyers of the VIP tickets was Mayor Damian Mercado, who said the organizers continued to sell tickets and proceeded with the show even when they knew Angelika was not coming. He clarified that the city government had nothing to do with the concert. The city-sponsored activities for its 4th Charter Day ended on Aug. 10, he said.

Serdan said on radio in Maasin they would not refund the tickets because they had already paid half of the actress' talent fee of P140,000. But she was forced to refund some tickets when the ticket-holders, some of whom had come from Dumaguete City in Negros province, complained to the police.

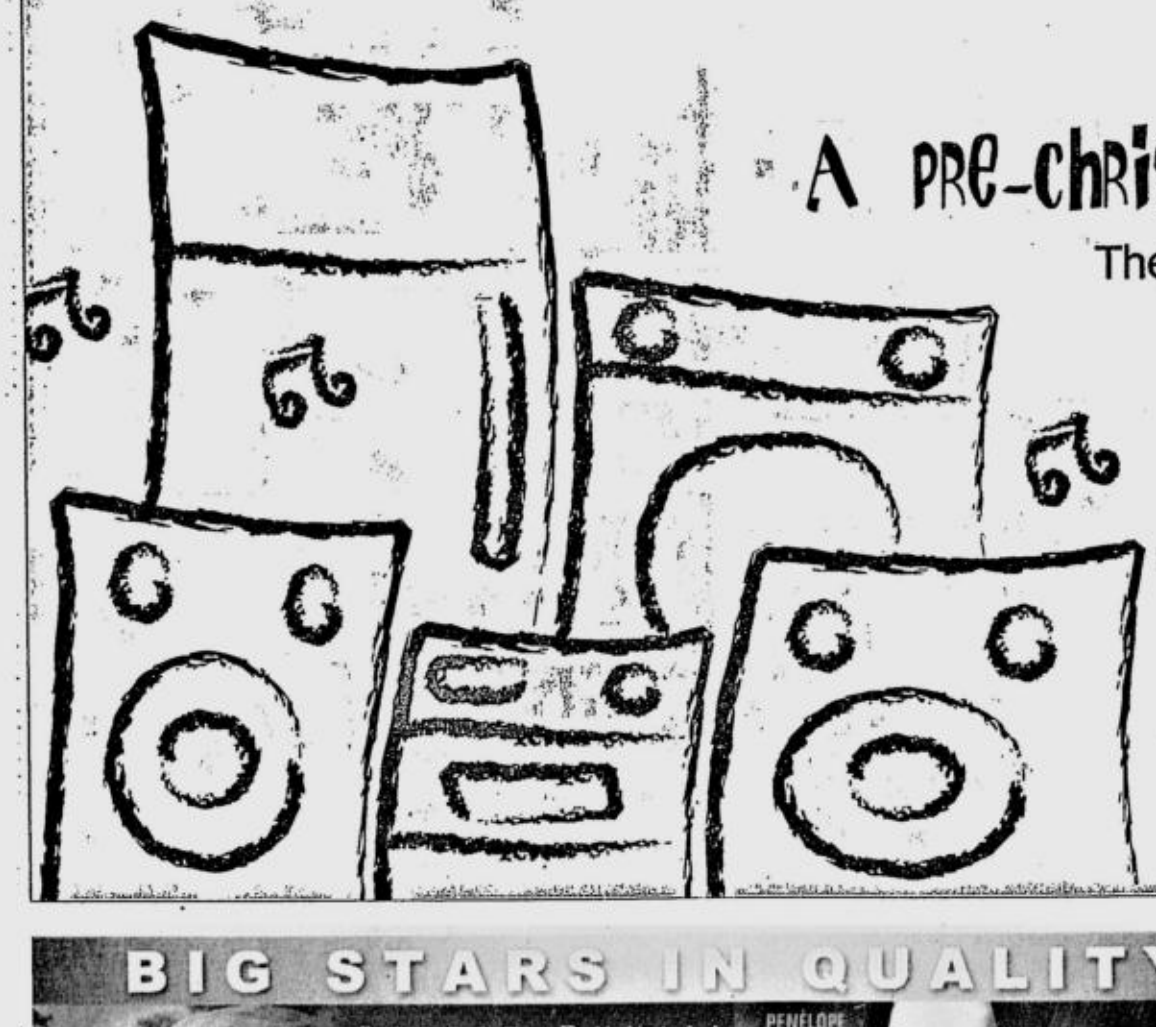
But an APO member, who was part of the organizing committee, said only P40,000 in down payment was given to Angelika's handlers.

After saying Mass at the Maasin Cathedral, Father Amado Olayvar of Olap told churchgoers that according to their agreement with the organizers, the role of the parish was to help sell the tickets in exchange for 10 percent of the gross sales.

The priest said the parish would take only "10 percent of the blame."

Serdan said they would reset the concert to September.

The Talent Center would not say whether the show would be reset. "It really depends on Angelika's schedule," said a Talent Center representative. "She's booked to do other out-of-town shows this year."



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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

TONY tinted bags /E1

Legend of the Fall 2004 trends

Part I

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FASHION may be fickle but it's not impossible to keep up with it. It can be quite fun and yes, inexpensive, if you know what to invest in or where to find reasonably priced finds.

But before anything else, find out what trends you would like to adopt for each season. This fall, or in local parlance, holiday season, fashion is all about Old World elegance combined with new world style. Vintage chic, decorated clothes and embellishments like bows, embroidery, fringes, feathers and flounces are all the rage.

Although this season's trends are not exactly for the shrinking violet, you can always modify and wear them in a subtler, off-the-runway manner. You can also devise a body type and age-appropriate way to wear these trends.

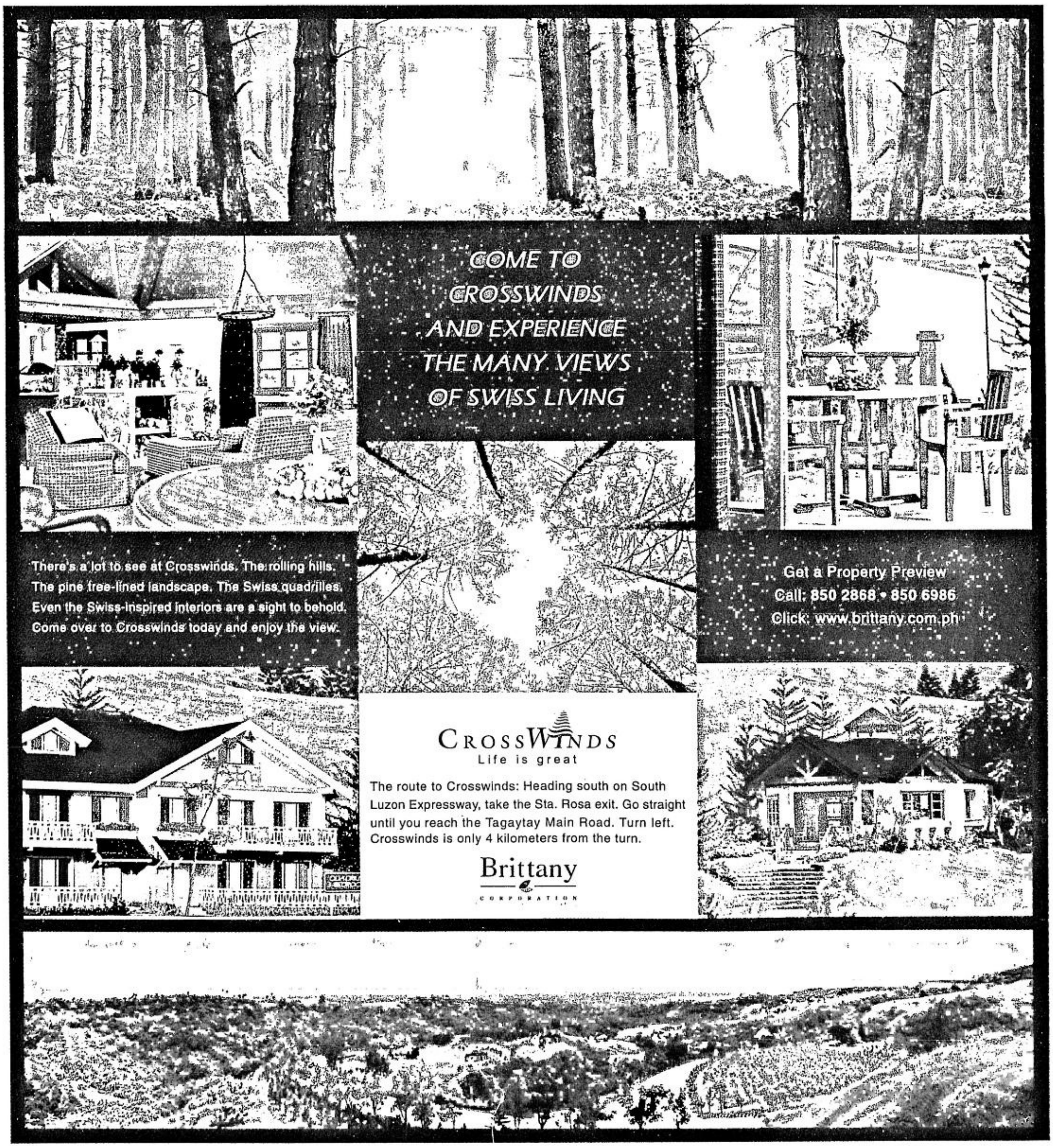
For example, a 50-year-old woman might look over the top if she wears too much screaming metallic accessories. Or a 16-year-old might look frumpy in a traditional tweed dress, classic pearls and pumps. Worse yet, someone with huge saddlebags will most probably look sausage-like if she wears the latest extra-slim pencil skirts. She might be better off donning an A-line style.

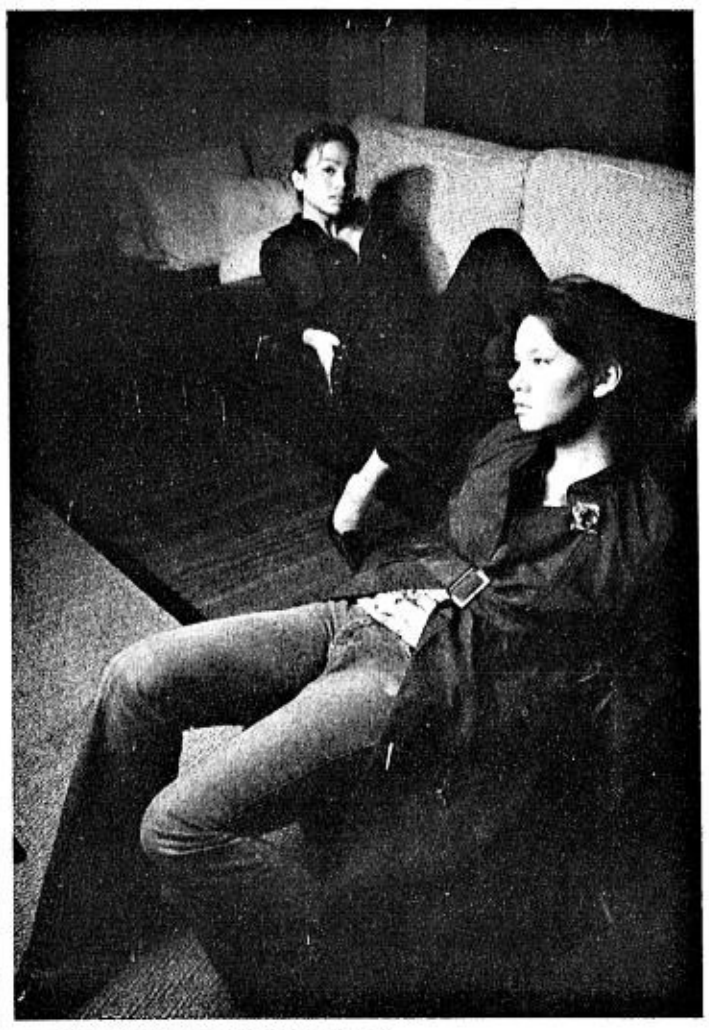
Keep in mind that there's always a way to make a trend work for you. And if you feel it is just not working, simply give it up. It's best to always be yourself so you are comfortable and confident at all times.

LEGEND/ D2

BERIBBONED BEAUTIES

Fall fashion is all about femininity. One surefire way to achieve this is by donning beribboned articles of clothing, be it a snug little cardigan or a gorgeous evening ensemble. Or why not update your pieces by tying a pretty satin ribbon around your classic suit jackets or a season's old dress? On Amanda: BCBG cardigan and Vivienne Tam pants with embroidery detail, both available in Rustan's; on Stephanie: Sinequanone stretch tulle top with satin ribbons, available in Rustan's, and Tyler chiffon and satin pleated skirt.

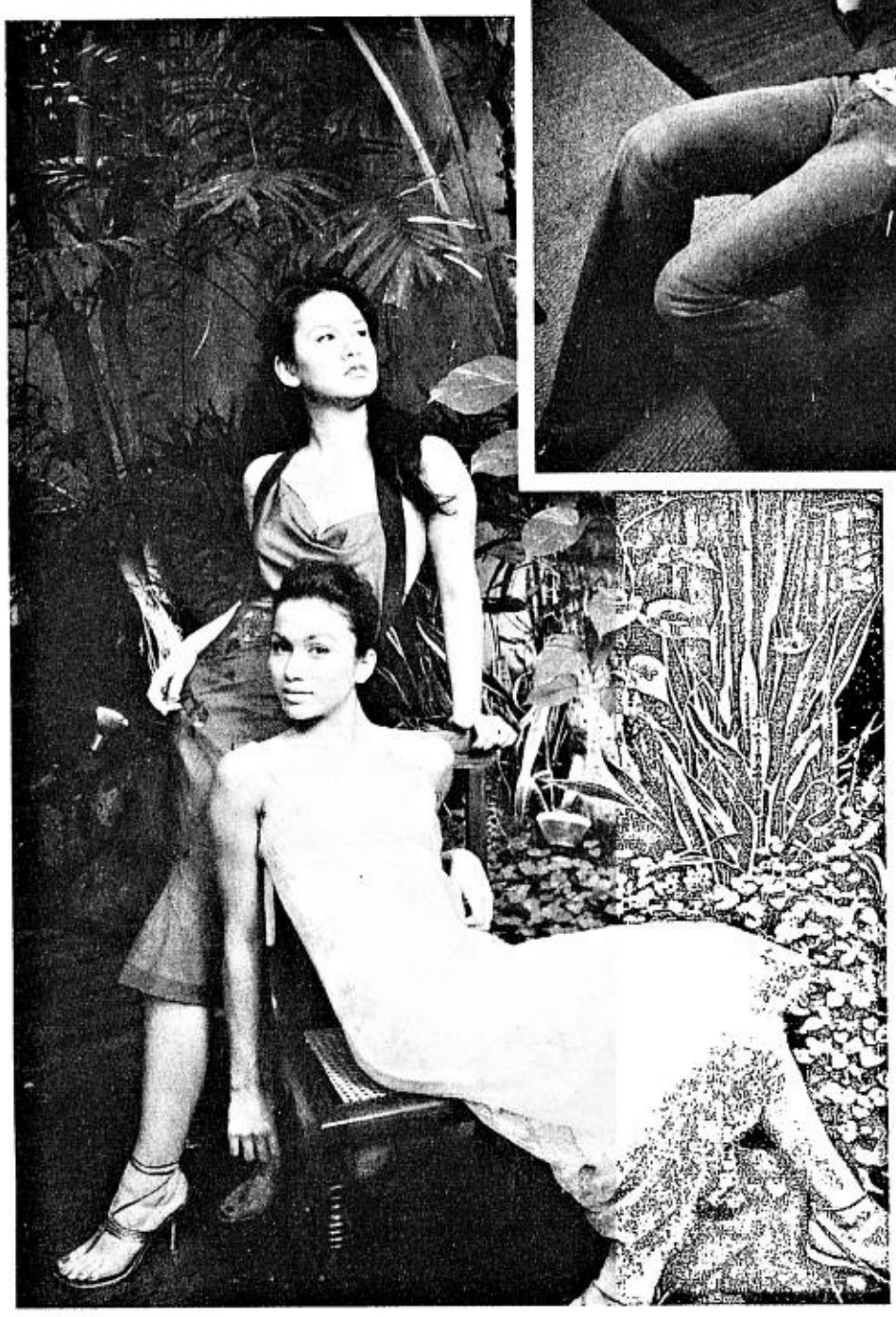




CHIC COATS
"Trenches, cardigans and jackets will bring any office attire into play this season. It's one item that will dress up any drab Monday blues outfit. Go for trench coats that double as a dress, they're great for almost any body shape," says stylist and INQUIRER Just Shop creative director Jenni Epperson. On Stephanie: black belted jacket and cropped pants from Tyler, Nine West black leather heels; On Amanda: Culte Femme trench coat, Nine West black pinstriped flats

TWEED
Thanks to Karl Lagerfeld and the house of Chanel, tweeds are back and more fashionable than ever. Wear them any which way—with jeans, a white tee and pearls for a modern take or with a sequined top for a more formal look. On Amanda: Culte Femme pink tweed jacket; on Stephanie: Pat and Puey beaded top and tweed skirt with velvet ribbon, Kenneth Cole mauve faux croc heels

PHOTOS: KAI HUANG
STYLING: BLUE CARREON
HAIR AND MAKEUP: LOURD RAMOS OF EMPHASIS SALON, ASSISTED BY MELANIE BOADO
MODELS: AMANDA TENGCO AND STEPHANIE KIENLE
MAKEUP: SMASHBOX COSMETICS, AVAILABLE AT THE BEAUTY BAR



VINTAGE CHIC
"Vintage dressing continues to be on a roll as more and more young designers are making their new creations appear as if they've resurrected them from a secret archive," says writer and stylist Blue Carreon. Vintage-y dresses abound in the local retail market, so you, too, can get into the trend with utmost ease. On Amanda: Vivienne Tam embroidered stretch tulle dress with jersey trim; on Stephanie: silver lace over an embellished pink shift, to order from Rhett Eala

Legend of the Fall 2004 trends

From page D1

To help narrow down your choices, here is a partial list of the coming trends from ultra-stylish fashion industry insiders:

Jenni Epperson
Creative director, Inquirer Just Shop/ stylist

Metal mania—Gold, silver and bronze will make you sparkle this coming holiday season. Treat yourself with gold or silver stilettos and bags to go with your basics—jeans, T-shirts and your LBD (little black dress) will get an instant boost when accessorized with these goodies. Rush to Glorietta's newest shoe shops—Pretty Fit, X:odus and VNC—to get your shoe fix.

SM has great sparkling gold and silver evening bags that are sure to give anyone a run for her money. Marion Godart in Rockwell and Marcella's has beautiful brooches, bling-bling and cuffs so glittery they will make your whole outfit sparkle!

Chic coats—Trenches, cardigans and jackets will bring any office attire into play this season. It's one item that will dress up any drab Monday blues outfit. Go for trench coats that double as a dress, they're great for almost any body shape. You can find stylish ones in The Black Shop, Limited and Sinequanone in Rustan's, then cinch a ribbon on the waist (Carolina's has a variety of ribbons from satin, velvet to grosgrain and sells it by the meter) to make it chic.

Tweed or bouclé—The jacket in this material is definitely a must-buy because it's this season's pashmina. It's best paired with denims to add a street appeal to it. Grab one at Tweeds, YRYS or watch out for Hindy Tantoco's designs soon in Culte Femme.

Blue Carreon
Writer/stylist

Vintage dressing—This continues to be on a roll as more and more young designers are making their new creations appear as if they've resurrected them from a secret archive. The eternally cool Marc Jacobs showed a lot of vintage-y dresses on his runway, and so did Phoebe Philo for Chloe and Olivier Theyskens for Rochas. Think of Maggie Gyllenhal in "The Secretary."

Fancy detailing—If there is one thing that will leave an imprint on fashion's collective consciousness, it will be the influx of ribbons—from bow-cinched waist dresses to satin-ribbon piping to tassel accoutrements. It is also the return of the oversized cabbage roses.

Tweed—In its lighter form for our climate, tweed speaks sophistication and refinement. With Karl Lagerfeld's constant reinvention of the Chanel classic, the tweed jacket's influence is reaching a younger market.

Metallics—Tom Ford's final collection for Gucci was all out bling-bling. His heavily sequined dresses had everyone green with envy. Lame, sequins and beads add a bright on sparkle.

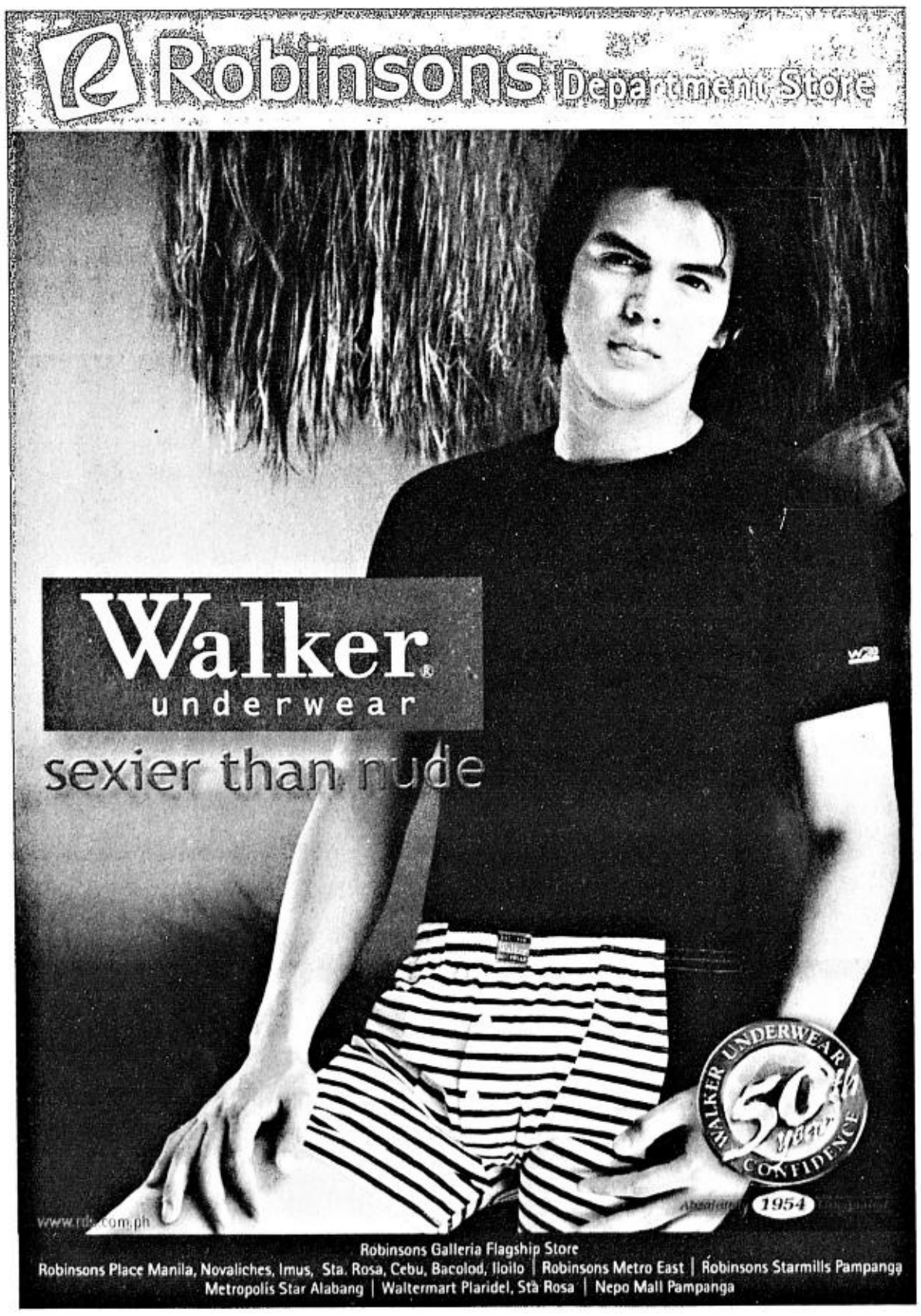
Cropped pants—Also making a huge comeback are cropped pants, especially when paired with an old-fashioned cardigan and stiletto pumps.

Rhett Eala
Designer

Here's a quick list of what to watch out for and what to wear:

Brooches
Pencil skirts
Tweed
Ladylike looks
Round-toe shoes
Bejeweled evening clutch
Cocktail dresses
Metallics
Lace
Conservative chic
Suits

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com



BLING! BLING!
Add a bit of sparkle and shine to an otherwise boring wardrobe with the use of metallic accessories such as bags, shoes, cuffs and the like. Kate Spade "Alessia" pink and silver totes; various pink and purple totes, to order from Ciara Marasigan, 0918-9220795, or log on to www.ciaracreates.com

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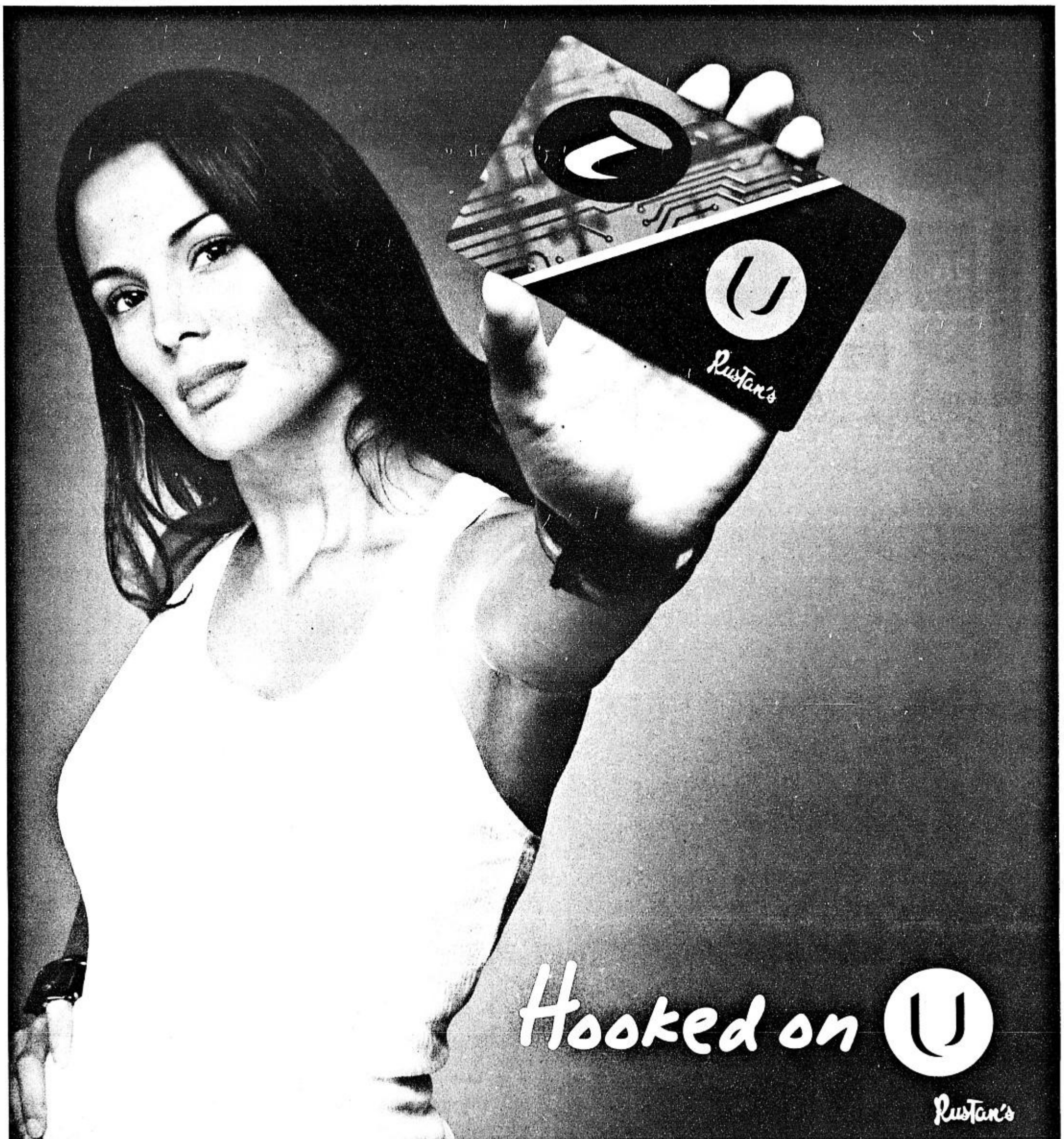

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The partners behind the monochromatic Carbon experiment with color in Tint

TRISTA pebble-grain leather totes with fringe accent (P6,798 large; P4,598 small)

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Bagful of colors

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Roger Carpio

JOANNA Preysler and Raul Francisco have a new baby.

While everyone was looking the other way, the couple conceived and gave birth to a new bag boutique on the ground floor of Greenbelt 3 in Makati, just a few feet away from their other baby, the now two-year-old Carbon.

The new store is called Tint, and retails bags, footwear and accessories in hues never before seen in Carbon, which sells only pieces in all gradations of black and the occasional whites.

But more than the color of the merchandise, Preysler explains Tint and Carbon are distinguished by the lifestyle of their clientele, so they saw no problem in opening two bag shops adjacent to each other. A Carbon patron who's a CEO by day may also be a disco diva by night or a soccer mom on weekends. "She can't possibly use the same bag for all her activities."

Carbon is urban and edgy, Preysler adds, while, "Tint is more resort, more 'girly-girly.'" While the former has a men's line, Tint sells only items for women but also has a sprinkling of black-and-white pieces. "If Carbon is Costume National, Tint is Marc Jacobs," she says.

The idea for Tint was borne out of Carbon clients who would always inquire if they also had colored bags. "Carbon is a strong and solid concept, so we didn't want to dilute it by including colored items in the store," Preysler explains. "If you know Raul, he's very firm about his ideas." Carbon, in fact, was awarded Store of the Year for 2003 by the Ayala Malls.

When the inquiries became incessant, they started keeping a "secret stash" of colored bags in Carbon, just to test the market. "They always sold out! That's when we realized there's a market niche that we haven't addressed."

They were offered a space on the second level of Greenbelt 4 for Tint, but they felt the area is more a transit point for commuters and not where their A-B market would go to shop. They opted to take the available space in Greenbelt 3.

Success

Fortunately for the owners, launching Tint had none of the attendant labor pains:

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SOFT and constructed elements are combined in this strapless empire-cut chiffon mini dress accented with beads and strips of ribbon on the chest.

FRAYED edges and emphasis on the chest are among the current trends captured in this draped and strapless chiffon number in magenta.

Are Miguel Leyva and Francis Libiran the Dolce & Gabbana of local fashion?

DUPIONI silk halter dress in gray with blue-violet accent is a perfect alternative to the safe little black dress.

OLIVE-GREEN satin gown comes with a Venus neckline and a pair of extensions that add drama and versatility to such a simple number.

Two to tango

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Bobot Meru

MIGUEL Leyva has a paragraph or two to say for every sentence Francis Libiran utters.

Even during this photo shoot, Leyva is in his elements as he single-handedly coaxes the three models to strike various poses. Libiran is content to show his approval either with a shy smile or a knowing look.

Such differences in their personalities, however, don't make for a lopsided working relationship.

As the designing duo behind Njörk, they see to it that every item that comes out of their atelier—from men's RTW shirts to women's haute couture gowns—has their stamp of approval.

"We put our ideas together," says Leyva. "I have more of the Japanese feel, while Francis leans more toward French and Filipino."

His eye for proportion complements Libiran's flair for details and embellishment. When the two put their respective strengths together, there's this certain kind of "synergy," says Leyva, that makes the clothes work.

Even during the few times Libiran makes an entire collection by himself, Leyva's touch invariably surfaces in the clothes. That's how well the two partners know each other.

In a business where honest-to-goodness criticism is scarce, their collaboration not only helps sharpen their creativity, but also keeps them grounded. The client, of course, will be the last to know, as the two prefer to keep their creative differences behind the shop's four walls.

"But we seldom argue," Libiran says. "You can count the number of times we did."

And if ever they do, says Leyva, it's because they want the best for the client. Such diligence has borne fruit, as Njörk now counts the likes of Alessandra de Rossi, Korina Sanchez, Christine Bersola, Dingdong Dantes, Ian Veneracion and Gary Valenciano among its growing list of celebrity clients.

Njörk's RTW shirts are exclusively sold at Sari-Sari. Its haute couture line for his and hers now bears the label Njörk by Miguel Francisco.

They assumed the new name recently upon the advice of American stylist Phillip Bloch, who saw their clothes during last year's Mercedes Benz Fashion Week in New York.

If Dolce & Gabbana and Badgely Mischka can get away with it without compromising their own identities, says Bloch, so can they. The name also has a Latin ring to it, à la hotshot Cuban-American designer Narciso Rodriguez.

Lots in common

If not for their ability to "give and take" and second-guess each other's preferences, they say, they wouldn't have lasted this long. It has been six years since the boyish-looking pair with incredibly lean bodies met at a party and found out that they had lots in common, including a passion for clothes.

Libiran was then a practicing architect, while Leyva was an associate producer and talent manager for ABS-CBN and Viva Films. They decided to drop everything and open a small clothes shop at 126 Scout Fernandez St., near Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City (tel. nos. 9257503, 4269479 and 9255495).

"There were no bars yet along Tomas Morato," Leyva recalls. "A few people would come in and buy our one-of-a-kind shirts that were patterned after our bodies."

They christened their joint venture Njörk, a Danish-sounding name that Leyva says doesn't mean anything, and promptly went on to specialize in men's RTW and made-to-order clothes. Njörk quickly gained a following among Manila's metrosexuals, and before long, young women also began knocking at their door.

Their first venture into the female realm came a year after, when they did the gowns of three teenagers attending a debut. As the silhouettes then for men's and women's clothes had certain similarities, the pair managed the transition with little difficulty.

"We found men's clothes a bit limiting," says Libiran. "We wanted to grow and take our creativity to the limits."

There was no turning back since demand for their services steadily grew over the years. The duo's creations are now constant fixtures during awards nights and news and public affairs programs. They've also managed to limit the number of off-the-rack shirts to a few pieces to maintain Njörk's image of exclusivity.

Njörk has come a long way from the time when it had to make do with a cutter and a sewer. These days, the duo employs a retail team composed of four supervisors and several subcontractors, while its haute couture team has five cutters and five sewers.

What will be in store for Njörk's fans? The pair is retraining the company's managers and supervisors into further understanding the concept behind the label. This move is necessary, as Njörk prepares to beef up its wedding and merchandising lines.

"Our dream is to one day become a lifestyle brand," says Leyva. "Going into such areas as shoes, bags, furniture and home accessories will require a great deal of money and hard work, but it can be done."

Libiran smiles to that, as if to express his heartfelt agreement with his partner's grand plans. Whatever direction they take in the future, it will most likely be a joint venture requiring both their time and ideas.

CLOTHES: NJÖRK BY MIGUEL FRANCISCO
STYLISTS: MARLON FURTON AND MYRENE HERNANDEZ
MODELS: RIA BOLIVAR, CHARISSE OCRISMA AND JON MULLALY
VENUE: EDWARD DELA CUESTA'S PHOTO STUDIO
SPECIAL THANKS TO MICHELLE LOCKE FOR THE ACCESSORIES, VICTOR ORTEGA OF EMPHASIS SALON, EDWARD AND GIGET DELA CUESTA

SHEEN and the unfinished look are big at Njörk. Jon sports a slim-fit taffeta shirt and black pants. Ria dons a strapless lime-green dupioni silk dress with Japanese brocade accent.

DUCHESS satin jacket with mandarin collar gets a youthful twist, thanks to its tapered fit and a pair of satin strips on the side.

VINTAGE look gets an unfinished feel in this mini dress with a crushed bust line and frayed collar accent.

EVENING glamour is flowing and shapeless, as seen in this empire-cut orange and fuchsia chiffon gown with corded detail on the chest.

FRANCIS Libiran and Miguel Leyva, a.k.a Miguel Francisco

TINT owner Joanna Preysler with her Karen bags (P5,998 each)

Bagful of colors

From page E1

its first month was a success, just as they had hoped—with no significant effect on Carbon's sales.

Of course, they're not being complacent. Retail is a very tricky business, says Preysler. "You always have to evolve with your clients." This early, they're already looking into supplementing their all-leather line with items using other materials.

"Tint is for women who love fashion, appreciate design and workmanship but don't want to break the bank," she explains. "I'm a mom myself, so I am conscientious about how I spend."

Tint is their answer to high-priced designer accessories labels—just as fashion-forward but mid-priced.

Stocks are kept to a minimum to lend the brand an element of exclusivity. Similarly, Francisco and Preysler believe in maintaining flagship outlets, so opening another Tint store is not on the table at present.

"It's a niche market, so if we branch out now, we would end up cannibalizing our own market," Preysler explains.

The Tint store bears the same art-gallery feel of Carbon, where products are showcased and spotlighted like artworks themselves. It is no accident that the new shop also has framed artworks on display, as the venue also promotes Filipino artists. Featured are independent artists and those affiliated with The Drawing Room.

As they prepare for Tint's official opening on Aug. 26, Preysler says they're also introducing two imaginary characters, Jenna and Jewel, to dispense fashion tips to their color-shy or fashion-clueless patrons. Items in the store will have pointers on, say, how to wear an orange-colored bag—from Jenna, a level-headed downtown girl, and Jewel, her carefree sister from uptown.

Soon, the store will also carry handmade jewelry made by Preysler and a US-based friend.

WILMA bag (P5,398) and Mindy pony-hair thongs in cream (P2,498)

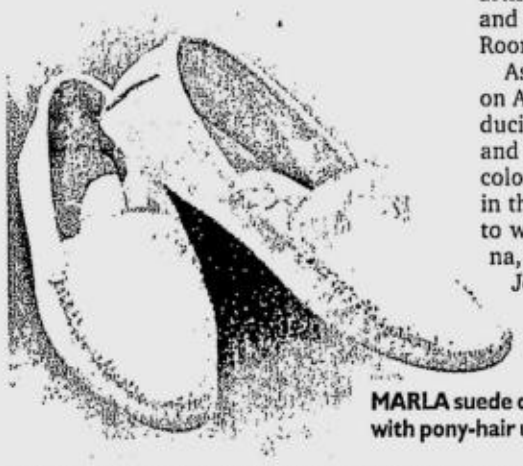
JENNA bag (P5,598) and Madison walking shoes (P3,298)

MONIQUE pony-hair flat mules (P3,298 each)

TRACI "spectator" bags (P5,998 each)

JANAH suede bag with patchwork design (P4,298) and Mindy zebra-print pony hair thongs (P2,498)

TINA bags with knotted pipe handles (P6,398 large; P4,998 small)



MARLA suede driving shoes with pony-hair upper (P3,298)

TINT, the chic sister boutique of urban-edgy Carbon in Greenbelt 3, has the look and feel of an art gallery, where bags and footwear are showcased with artworks from The Drawing Room.

SUPERMARKET
A CELEBRITY - CHARITY BAZAAR
The Loft at Rockwell
August 29 Sunday 9 AM - 7 PM

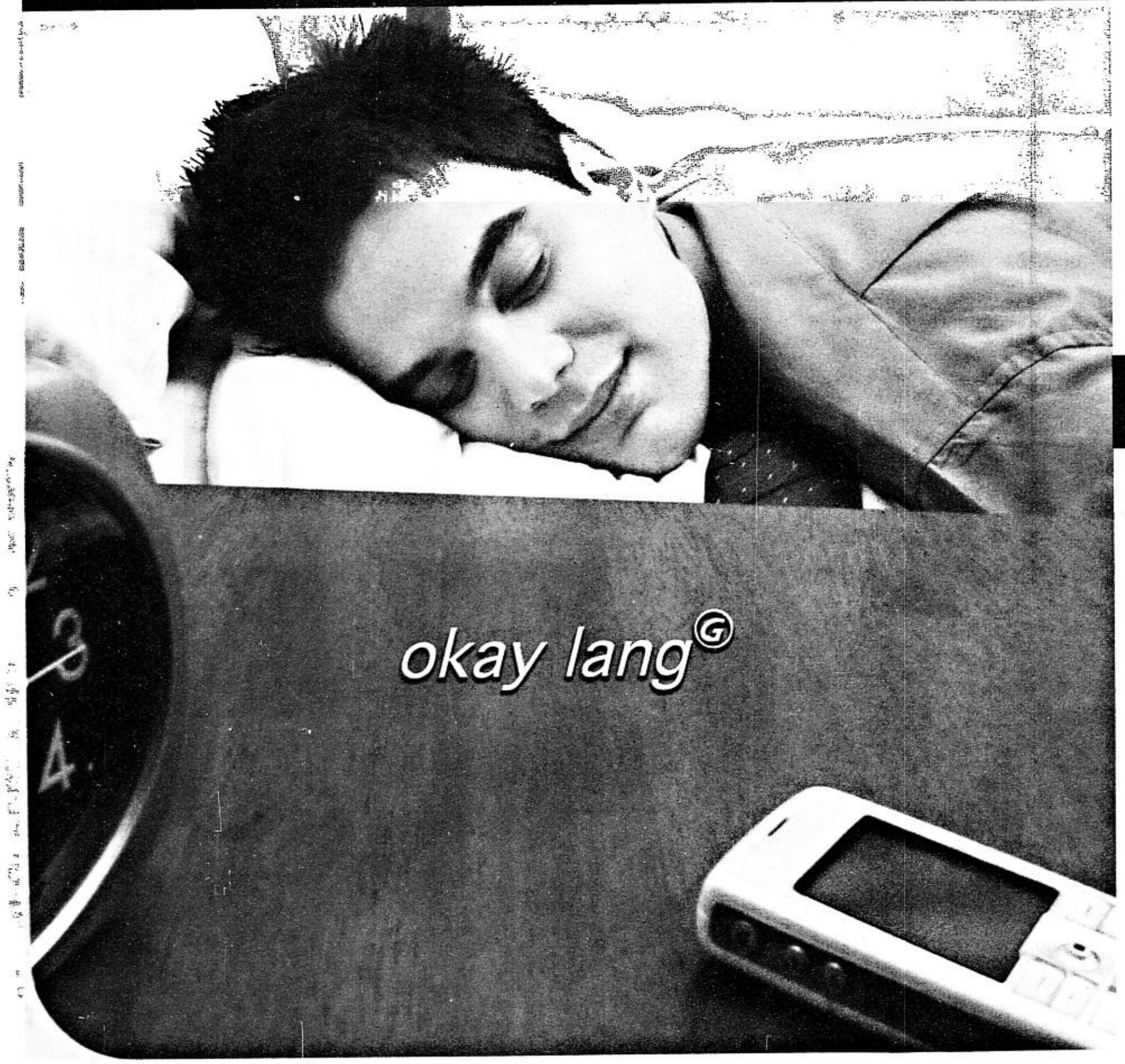
Grab your favorite celebrities' personal items up on sale in the hippest, most talked about SUPERMARKET celebrity-charity bazaar!

Akafellas * Amanda Griffin * Andrew E * Antonio Aquitania * Geneva Cruz * JM Rodriguez * Joe d' Mango * Kate Torralba * KC Concepcion * KC Montero * Marc Nelson * Margie Moran Floirendo * Phoemela Barranda * Piolo Pascual * Rissa Samson * Tim Yap and more...

Also featuring chic items, rare finds and must-haves like Havaianas flip flops, Get Happy fashion accessories, Stelle E Stile Italia murano gems, Italian items, Tees and Things clothes and accessories, SoftSpot stuffed toys and novelty items, cosmetic kits, hip belts, funky watches, magic wallets, bags, shoes and many more!

All major credit cards are accepted!
For booth reservations, please call Ching at 897-8808 loc 259 or 0921-5925121.

You're dead tired. Phone mo dead batt. 8 people are trying to call you.



Introducing

GLOBE CALLBACK ALERT

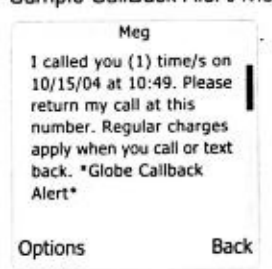
Another first from Globe.

Free for all Plan subscribers

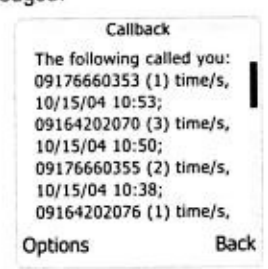
Now you can return all the calls you missed while your phone was busy, switched off or out of battery. As soon as you switch on your phone, you get a free text alert on who called you, how many times, and what time the calls were made. Keep track of everyone who tried to reach you with the new Globe CallBack Alert, so you can call them back immediately. Standard voice rates apply when you return calls.

The new Globe CallBack Alert is initially available for Globe Plan subscribers. This service is automatically activated and is absolutely FREE! No need to register. For more information, text HELP to 2810.

Sample CallBack Alert Messages:



For missed calls of up to 3 people, you will receive a text message for each missed call showing the caller's name and phone number.



For missed calls of 4 or more people, you will receive a single text message listing each caller's phone number.

Once your CallBack Alert is activated, this message may appear when you make outgoing calls.

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MARKET
A CELEBRITY - CHARITY BAZAAR
The Loft, Rockwell
August 29 Sunday
9 AM - 7 PM
OPEN TO ALL ENTREPRENEURS
FOR INQUIRIES, PLS. CALL CHING
AT 897-8808 LOC. 259 or 09215925101

Fresh booty or bargains? Take your pick

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

YOU should not miss the major bargains available until Aug. 31. Savings mean a lot for everyone's budget, after all. Besides, there are a lot of new products in the beauty industry that any cosmetic junkie will die for.

Bargains:

1. **Avon Cellu Sculpt Body Treatment** (for cellulite and fat burning) now has a 200 ml size. Between Aug. 16 to 31, it will be sold for an introductory price of P599, but after that the price will go up to P799. This is one of my choice emergency products if I have to fit into a tight pair of jeans and shrink my saddlebags and bulging tummy.

2. **Blue Mountain Spa (BMS).** By now everyone must be aware of the term microdermabrasion/power peel or diamond peel. It removes dead skin, fades acne scars, makes wrinkles shallower and gives one's skin a glow.

Well, BMS has a new introductory offer until the end of August, which gives anyone who makes an appointment for their Intensive Diamond Peel an 80-percent discount.

Ordinarily, IDP for the face is P2,500 and another P2,500 for the neck, but if you make the appointment before the month ends, you get a face and neck IDP for P500.

The catch: If you have warts, open wounds on the face or bad acne, the clinic will turn you away because the wounds will spread on the face. Your problem areas will be treated before your IDP.

AVON Cellu Sculpt Body Treatment

What's new?

1. Contact lenses you can wear to sleep for 30 days and nights straight on without ever removing them. Can you imagine the hassle-free life of just wearing your contact lenses at

FRESH/ F3

Mesolipo FAQ's

What is Mesolipo?

Mesolipo is the latest technique from Paris. It is a non-surgical treatment that dissolves fat.

How does Mesolipo work?

The fat is dissolved by a customized mixture of natural plant extracts and vitamins placed just millimeters under the skin.

Which part of the body would benefit from Mesolipo?

While any area of the body can be treated, it works best on areas with small to moderate accumulations of fat. Liposuction is still the recommended treatment for areas with thick pads of fat.

What should a patient expect after the procedure?

There may be slight bruising, swelling and tenderness after the procedure. However, a patient would still be able to go to work and to exercise.

How many treatments are needed?

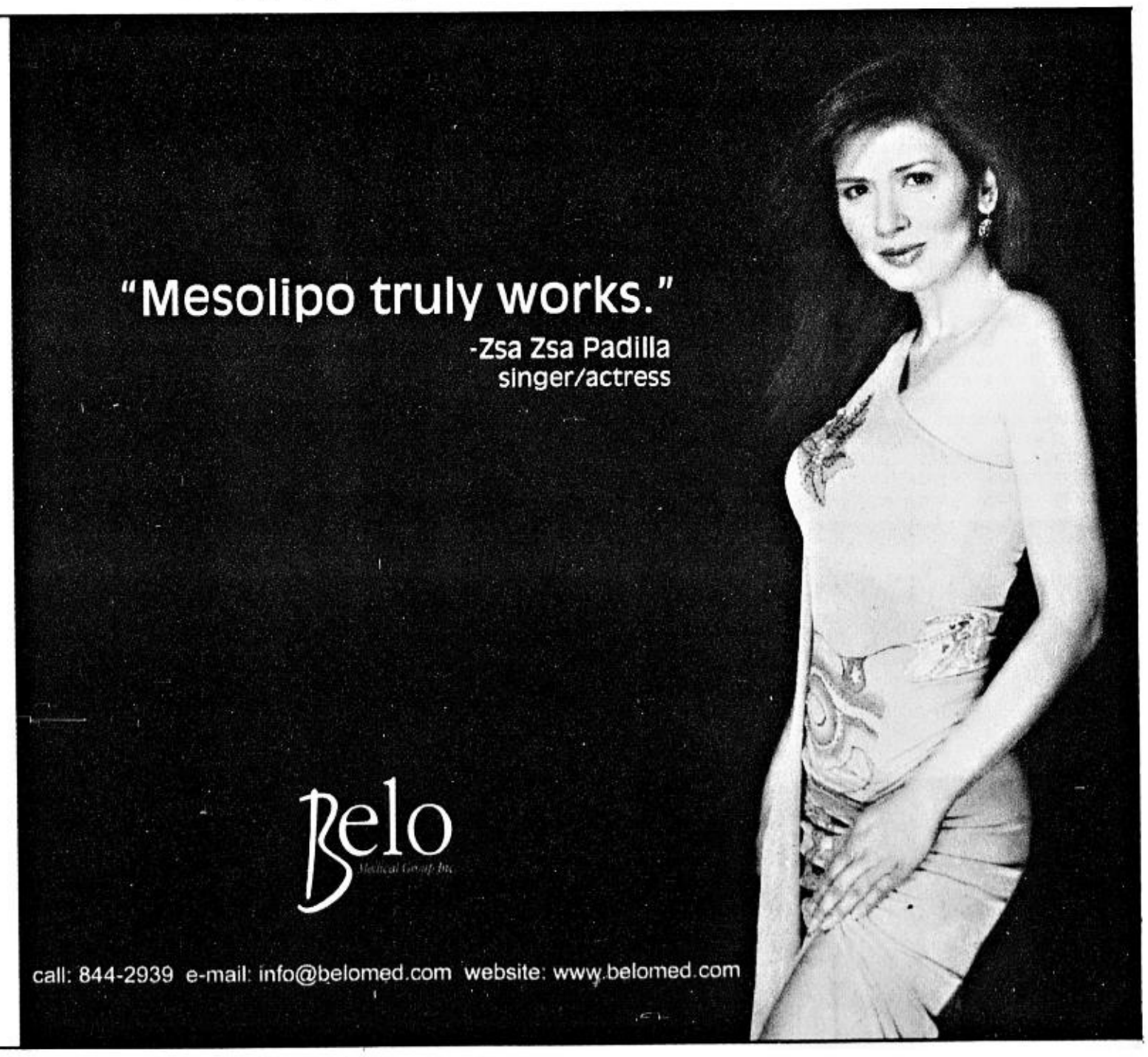
Since everyone responds to Mesolipo differently, anywhere from two to eight sessions are needed.

How frequent should Mesolipo be done?

One session should be done every two weeks.

Are all Mesotherapy treatments the same?

The results achieved are totally dependent on the quality of the ingredients used in the solutions and the expertise of the physician.



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Bobby, Bobby, Bobby

SOCIETY women guests donned their finest jewelry and name brand outfits for the fantastic thanksgiving dinner party that popular couturier **Bobby Novenario** hosted at his posh residence in North Forbes for his "real close friends" and *famille*.

As the long line of invitees entered the mansion, one couldn't help but notice talented florist **Ramon Pastor**'s outstanding job, of lavishing tons of flowers all over Bobby's foyer, entertainment area and rainforest garden, *palanggas*. There were votive candles flickering all over, illuminating the huge house, together with garden spotlights designed by renowned and good-looking architect **Conrad Onglao.**

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

For dinner, the popular Via Mare served a yummy buffet of their new dishes, complemented by **Arlene Arce**, who cooked Bobby's favorite dishes.

"Oh, I thought it was going to be French cuisine," said **Nene Leonor**, one of Manille's top hostesses, as she surveyed the buffet.

While the band of **Noel Lopez** provided entertainment, at our table the big topics were: the jewelry of some of the women present and how architect **Conrad Onglao** designed Bobby's house and the work being done, also by Conrad, on the mansion across the street that belongs to **Mely** and **Paing Hechanova.**

An endless flow of champagne and wine, both white and red, flown in by the celebrator's super pal, the vivacious Los Angeles-based jetsetting millionaire **Estrella Linch**, was poured like monsoon rain till the bash ended at 2 a.m., *palanggas*. Then party favors of hand-embroidered linen facial tissue holders from Vietnam were given out by Bobby to his invitees.

Newest taberna

Moi could never say no to delectable Spanish cuisine. I'm sure it must be because of the many times I've been to Spain, *palanggas*. Thank goodness we don't have a lack of this type of cooking in Cosmo-Manille, and as any real gourmand knows, the popular Casa Armas has always been known for its delectable dishes—from the excellent paella, to their *tapas* and the specialty of the house, the to-die-for famous Iberian chicken, which has to be ordered a day in advance.

Casa Armas was born in Malate, and before you could bat an eyelash, they also had branches at Greenbelt, The Podium and Jupiter.

Now their newest baby is Taberna de Casa Armas, which is at the newly opened Paseo Center. The new branch prides itself on being the best place to get a yummy lunch. And after work, when chilling it, their Hora Feliz (as in "happy hour") is something to look forward to. At P200, you get five chilled beers and a *tapa* of your choice.

We were invited when Taberna de Casa Armas officially opened its doors with glam **Imelda Marcos** (who breezed in with her pal, Club Bulakeños president **Berna Lomotan**); Señor **Jose Miguel Cortes**, who is the economic commercial counselor of the Spanish Embassy; Casa Armas owners, *muy simpatico* **Jesus** and **Linette Armas**; and the lady in front of the throne, well respected Taberna's president **Laura Lim.**

For a while there it felt like I was in Old Madrid, having *vino* and *tapas* before a late-late dinner, Madrileño style. But at the opening I opted for Sangria, the drink that creeps up on you and then bang! You're as high as a kite.

Okay, now who was there? There were Rustan's Essenses glam gals **Rhoda Campos** and **Toni Abad**, with her good-looking husband **Paolo**; gorgeous **Trish Briones**; workaholic **Bryan Lim** of Bench; **Mercedes Paras**; **Rissa Oreta**; **Tim Go**; **Richie Ortega**; **Kirby** and **Mara Coscolluela-Quintal**; **Daisy Ng**; **Gino Rojas** of ING; **Gio de la Rosa**; **Len Lopez** and **Mike Macales** of Deutsche Regis; **Gerard Singson** of Basic Capital; Credit Lyonnaise's **Mitzis de Dios**; **Peachy Lagman**; **Joy Masiguran** of Philippine Equities; **John Fajardo** of ABN AMRO; **Binky** and **Tracy Anglo Dizon**; and the body beautiful, good-looking group of **Bianca Valerio**, **Rosario Herrera**, **Luke Jickain** and **Brent Javier**; **Derrick Santos**; **Eric** and **Indi Puyat Luchangco**; **Charisse** and **Carlo Katigbak**, plus others too nice to mention, darlings.

Taberna de Casa Armas is located on the second floor of the Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas Avenue corner Sedeno Street, Makati City. Viva la comida Español!

Great takeoff

Corporate Air added to its fleet of planes a sleek, brand new Grand Caravan Cessna, *palanggas*.

A champagne blessing was held at its hangar in Pasay City.

"We are proud to be the only operator in the commuter industry that offers first-class service to our clients with our Grand Caravan Cessna traveling to popular destinations such as Boracay, Amanpulo, El Nido, Club Noah Isabelle and the Baguio Country Club."

Tres visible at the affair were the hotshot executives of Corporate Air—chair **Alberto Lina**, president **Ramon Gutierrez** and sales and marketing director **Art Alejandrino.** Doing the ribbon snipping were **Sylvia Lina** and Tourism Secretary **Roberto Pagdanganan.**

Toasting the new aircraft were former President **Fidel V. Ramos**, Naia general manager **Ed Manda**, PNP deputy for operations Maj. Gen. **Avelino Razon**, Baguio Country Club president **Rico Agcaoili**, Philippine Coast Guard Capt. **Lino Dabi**, RMN's **Butch Canoy**, Manila Domestic Airport's workaholic manager, **Alvin Candelaria**; city gal turned beach comber, our *palangga*, **Freida Dario** of Boracay's popular Mandala Spa; Mail and More president **Cons del Rosario**, **Joe Basso** and **Lito O. Cruz.**

When asked about the plane's safety and reliability, Corporate Air sales and marketing director **Art Alejandrino** said, "This aircraft landed just two days ago from the Cessna factory in Wichita, Kansas after flying a total of 57 hours, 38 hours of which were flown over the Pacific Ocean, amid three cyclones and at nighttime. (It was) flown in by Capt. Mike Boyd. Need I say more?"

No, sir, we believe you.

"The aircraft comfortably sits 12 passengers and is equipped with the latest instrumentation, avionics, luxurious leather seats, individual lighting and air-conditioning controls. It has large windows, making it ideal for sightseeing while flying," said Corporate Air chair **Alberto Lina.**

Talking about airplanes, I remember a long time ago I had this fear of heights and, whenever I flew, I would pray that the pilot would stay on the runway as long as possible, would you believe? Nowadays, the only fear I have of flying, *palanggas*, is the taxi ride from Makati to the airport.

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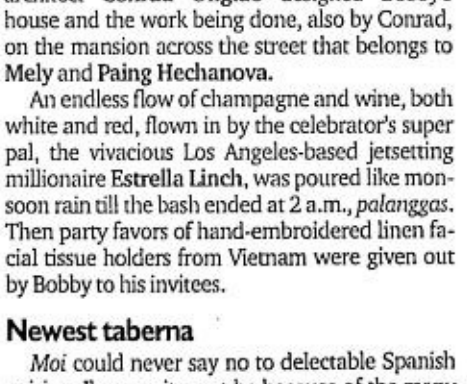
1. THE CELEBRATOR, Bobby Novenario, with architect Gerry Contreras, Sam and Vivian Groskof and special guests from Los Angeles, Filipina socialite Estrella Linch and Marc Watanabe; 2. All in the *famille*. Marinella Novenario with her sister Cristina Novenario Eloriaga; 3. Marga Ret Kwok and Nene Leonor; 4. Nikki, Celine and Katie Novenario; 5. Charity fundraising gals Evie Costa, Mely Ablaza, Tereret Liboro, Helen Ong and Fortune Ledesma; 6. Mega businessman Mon Tantoco and his wife, Justa; 7. Dr. Elenita Binay with husband, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, former Quezon City Mayor Mel Mathay and renowned florist and interior designer Claus Freund; 8. Socialites Nancy Tambunting and Viola Cruz; 9. Concepcion Industries' Rena Angeles, Cinderella's Therese Coronel Santos and popular architect Conrad Onglao; 10. Super pals. Mercy Arrastia Tuason, world-renowned couturier Pitoy Moreno and stunningly gorgeous Carol Garcia, back from her trip to Paris; 11. Lita Salinas and Josie Tordesillas; 12. Ambassador's wife Letty Syquia and workaholic Nini Licaros; 13. Beautiful couple—eye-catcher Lilibeth Romero and mega actor Eddie Garcia

SONY Ericsson GM Dennis Manzano, account manager Clariza Chia and marketing manager Patrick Larraga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1. PR maven Keren Pascual with star-maker Joji Dingcong and *moi*; 2. Taberna president Laura Lim, Casa Armas founder Jesus Armas, Imelda Marcos and Taberna GM Lorraine Lim-Aguila

Fresh booty or bargains? Take your pick

From page F1

the start of the month then removing them 30 days later?

They are called **Night and Day Lenses**, and are available at Ideal Vision Center and Rita Optical. There are no side effects, and in fact people are required to go for an eye check test because a lot of times their grade goes down.

The clinics still lack lenses for astigmatism, but they are currently working on them. The secret to these lenses are that their structure. They are designed to allow oxygen to pass through so there will be no dryness, discomfort and blurry vision. A pair costs P1,650.

For the more budget-conscious, still available are those lenses which you remove nightly and dispose of after a month. These are the **Focus Monthly Lenses** which cost P750 for three pairs, a good three months' supply.

2. Decléor, the aroma skincare line from France, is now being sold exclusively at Rustan's Department store.

I have only tried the whitening line for the face, and it is great for dry-skinned women who want to lighten up or eliminate their freckles. I know it works because it faded my leg scars.

I have heard rave reviews about Décleor's body products, especially the **Slendisium oil** for slimming, followed by the **Tonilastil** for firming. I also like the **Relaxing shower/bath gel** and **Spa relax body oil**, which is a stress-busting combination after a harassing day.

3. **Junkisui White** lift serum (250 ml for P965) is the dream all-in-one body product. It is the answer to four top Asian concerns: it burns fat, eliminates cellulite, slims problem areas and whitens the skin.

It is made by Kose company, the same manufacturers of Awake, Sekki Sei and Fasio.

4. **Neo Spa** at the Fort now has foot spa services.

Before I made my appointment, I made sure my feet were at their most abused, painful and tired from walking around the malls the whole day in heels. I opted for the Neo signature foot spa with pedicure (P880 for one hr and 30 min), and my technician's name was Virgie.

She started by soaking my feet in a eucalyptus and pine mixture, then she exfoliated my corns and calluses and sloughed off the dead skin from my shins and feet, hydrating and massaging these areas as well.

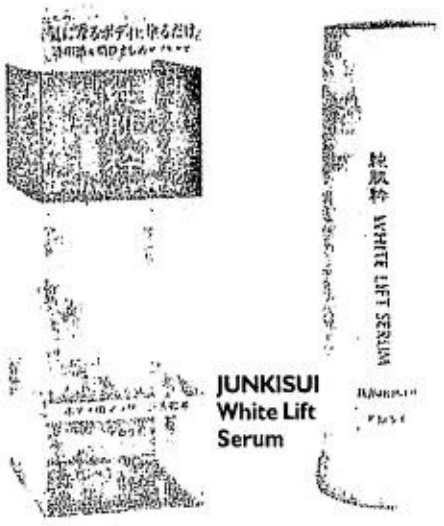
She then gave me a pedicure with her very light hands and made my toe nails perfectly squared, painting them with sheer Essie nail polish. I have been showing them off in strappy sandals for a week now and people really notice.

The 20- minute foot massage she finished with brought down the swelling of my feet, and she really found my sore points. I walked out of there refreshed, as if no rigorous walkathon happened earlier.

Avon Hotline: 8642900, Blue mountain spa 8135279, Neo spa 8158233. Junkisui is available at Essences.

FOCUS Night and Day Contact Lenses

DECLÉOR Slendisium Oil



JUNKISUI White Lift Serum

Decléor, the aroma skincare line from France, is now being sold exclusively at Rustan's

warehouse sale

chinese antique furniture & accessories

EXTENDED until august 31

Arts of Asia
Ground Floor, Urban Bldg.,
11 Jupiter st., Makati City
899-3802 or 895-7907

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Bel-Air, Makati City
898-0900 or 898-0800

THE GALLERY
4th Level, Art Plaza,
Edsa Shangri-La Mall
635-0800

SM SUPERMALLS
ENTERTAINMENT LIVE

SM CITY STA. MESA
JOY & BEVS MALL TOUR
August 20, 2004, Friday
4:00pm • Covered Walk
GRANDPARENT'S SINGING CONTEST (Eliminations)
August 21, 2004, Saturday
4:00pm to 5:30pm
Covered Walk
Magic 89.9 CAR STICK-ON ACTIVITY
August 22, 2004, Sunday
1:00pm to 6:00pm
EDDIE GIL ALBUM TOUR
August 22, 2004, Sunday
4:00pm • Covered Walk

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
6 CYCLEMIND
August 20, 2004
Friday • 4:00pm
Entertainment Plaza
PLDT BUDGET CARD LAUNCH
August 21, 2004, Saturday
4:00pm • Entertainment Plaza
Magic 89.9 CAR STICK-ON ACTIVITY
August 21, 2004, Saturday
1:00pm-6:00pm
Open Parking D
SHERYN MAE REGIS
August 22, 2004, Sunday
4:00pm • Entertainment Plaza

SM MEGAMALL
SAFEGUARD PAPAYA BIDA DIVA
August 21, 2004, Saturday
4:00pm • Atrium A
NORTH ALBUM TOUR
featuring the hit song "Glory of Love"
August 22, 2004, Sunday
4:00pm • Atrium A
with autograph signing

SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS
96.3 DWRock CAR STICK-ON ACTIVITY
August 21, 2004, Saturday
1:00pm to 6:00pm
Entrance Parking 4 (3F-Pilar Entrance)
STAR CIRCLE QUEST RELOAD MALL TOUR
August 22, 2004, Sunday • 4:00pm
LGF, East Wing

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
IMAGO MALL TOUR
August 20, 2004, Friday
4:00pm • Activity Area
ABC-5 COOLIN AT THE MALL
August 21, 2004 • Saturday
4:00pm • Activity Area
GIG SOUNDS with PURE INSTINCT, SPIN ART with MOCHA, ELEMENTS & MP3
August 22, 2004, Sunday
4:00pm • Activity Area
Starstruck Attack: DIONNE
August 22, 2004, Sunday
6:00pm • Activity Area

SM CITY GRANDE
REMYX ACOUSTIC AFTERNOON
August 20, 2004, Friday • 5:00pm
5th Floor, Activity Area
Starstruck Attack: KATRINA PEREZ
August 21, 2004
Saturday • 5:00pm
5th Floor, Activity Area
Jam 88.3 CAR STICK-ON ACTIVITY
August 21, 2004, Saturday
1:00pm to 6:00pm
Car Park Exit
(facing mall entrance)
RACHELL ANN GO ALBUM TOUR
August 22, 2004, Sunday • 5:00pm
5th Floor, Activity Area

SM SUPERCENTER STA. ROSA
ACE HARDWARE WORKSHOP WEEKENDS
August 20, 2004, Friday
4:00pm • Center Atrium
SIPOL ALBUM TOUR
August 21, 2004, Saturday • 4:00pm
Center Atrium
LET'S & GO MINI 4WD CAR RACING
August 22, 2004, Sunday
10:00am to 6:00pm
Center Atrium

SM CITY BACOOR
GRANDPARENT'S DAY SINGING CONTEST (Screening)
August 20, 2004, Friday
10:00am to 12:00pm • Centermall
SIPOL ALBUM TOUR
August 20, 2004, Friday
4:00pm • Centermall
GIG SOUNDS with PURE INSTINCT ELEMENTS
August 21, 2004, Saturday
4:00pm • Centermall
ICE LOLLIES LIVE
August 22, 2004, Sunday
4:00pm • Centermall

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
JOY & BEVS MALL TOUR
August 21, 2004, Saturday
4:00pm • Centermall
ERIK SANTOS ALBUM TOUR
August 22, 2004, Sunday
4:00pm • Centermall
The Bomb CAR STICK-ON ACTIVITY
August 22, 2004, Sunday
1:00pm to 6:00pm
Entrance Parking (near terminal)

SM CITY PAMPANGA
CHARMEE TOUR featuring SARAH GERONIMO
August 22, 2004, Sunday
4:00pm
GF, Entertainment Plaza

SM CITY MARILAO
MASCULADOS ALBUM TOUR
August 21, 2004, Saturday
4:00pm
GF, Entertainment Plaza

SM CITY BACOOR
GRANDPARENT'S DAY SINGING CONTEST (Screening)
August 20, 2004, Friday
3:00pm to 5:00pm
Entrance Plaza Bldg. A
TWELVE CAR RAFFLE PROMO-GRAND DRAW wtih special guest LUKE MIJARES
August 22, 2004, Sunday
4:00pm
Entrance Plaza Bldg. A
DENMARK ALBUM TOUR
August 21, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Entrance Plaza Bldg. A

SM CITY BACOOR
JIMMY BONDOC LIVE with THE ESSENCE BAND
August 22, 2004, Sunday
4:00pm
GF, Entertainment Plaza

SM CITY BACOOR
SIPOL ALBUM TOUR
August 22, 2004
Sunday • 5:00pm
3rd Floor, Entertainment Plaza

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First Quadrant Corporate Center
Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills,
San Juan, Metro Manila
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721-0110 • 721-4025

USA Head Office
First Quadrant Corporate Center
333 Cabrillo Blvd, Milpitas Town Center,
Milpitas, Silicon Valley California, USA
Tel Nos.: 408-719-0023

CEBU Head Office
First Quadrant Corporate Center
Benigno V. Dy Building (on top of Mercury Drug, Rotonda)
Fuente Osmeña Ave., Cebu City
Tel Nos.: (032) 255-9919 • 255-9920 • 255-9923

DAVAO Head Office
First Quadrant Corporate Center
Concha Building (in front of Grand Men Seng Hotel)
corner A. Pichon Legaspi Street, Davao City 8000
Tel Nos.: (082) 222-9030 • 225-4152 to 53

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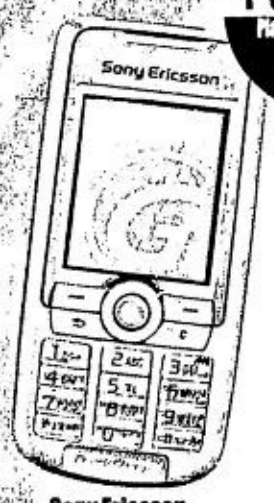

Sony Ericsson K700i

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Treo 600

Prepaid Phonekit as low as ₱ 4,348 per mo. Plan 500 as low as ₱ 4,317 per mo.

Samsung D410

Prepaid Phonekit as low as ₱ 4,832 per mo. Plan 500 as low as ₱ 4,797 per mo.

Nokia 7610

Prepaid Phonekit as low as ₱ 2,798 per mo. Plan 500 as low as ₱ 1,510 per mo.

Motorola E398

Prepaid Phonekit as low as ₱ 915 per mo. Plan 500 as low as ₱ 883 per mo.

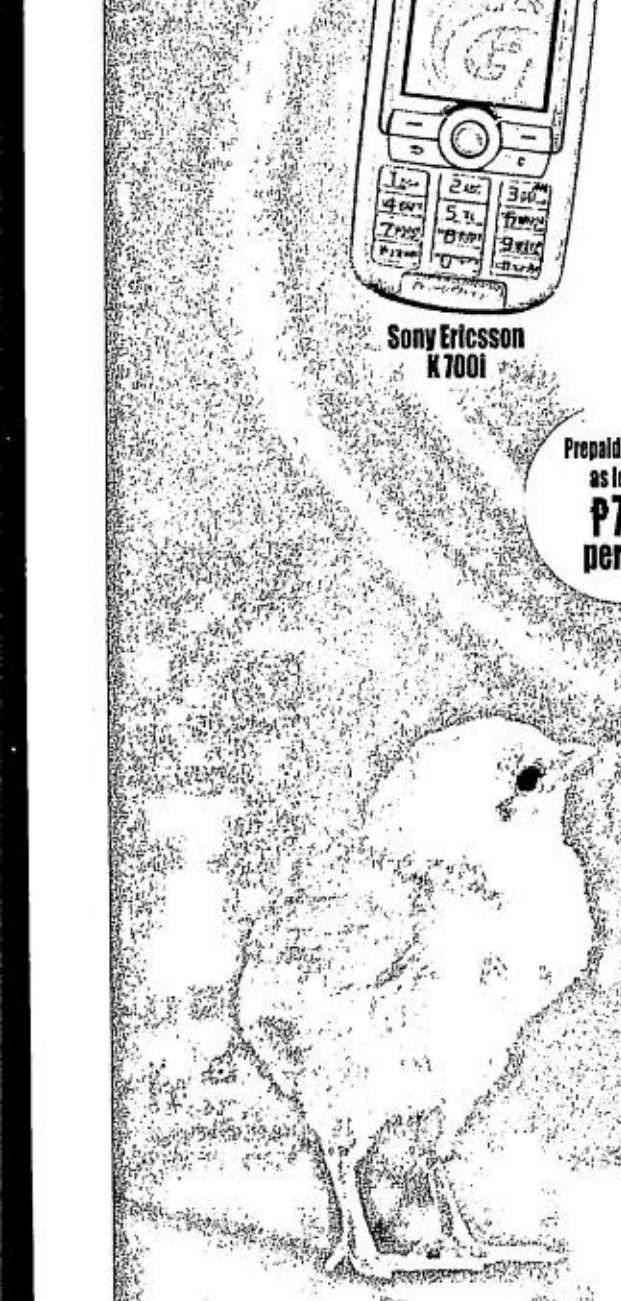
Sony Ericsson T230

Prepaid Phonekit as low as ₱ 582 per mo. Plan 500 as low as ₱ 598 per mo.

Nokia 3315

Prepaid Phonekit as low as ₱748 per mo.

Panasonic A100



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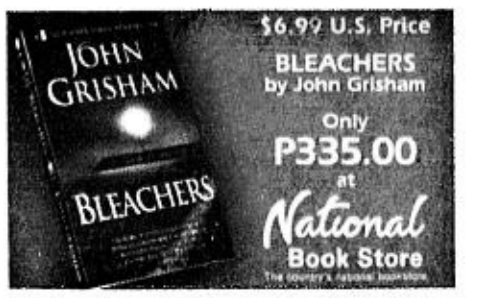
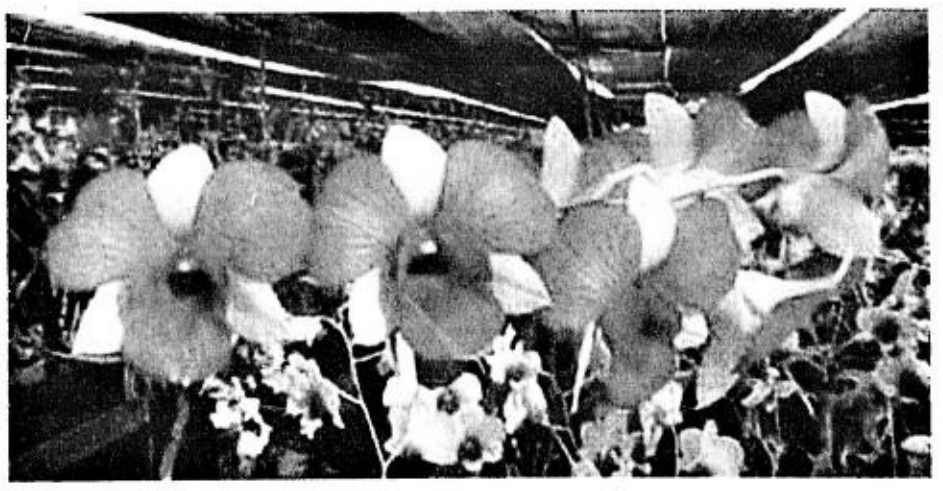
CLEAN and green living /G3





THE GARDEN exhibit will be held Aug. 27-Sept. 6 at the QC Hall complex.

Discover orchids in garden show

THE PHILIPPINE Orchid Society will hold the 58th Mid-Year Orchid and Garden Show Aug. 27- Sept. 6 at the Sunken Garden, Quezon City Hall Complex, corner East Avenue and Elliptical Road, Quezon City.

The event is being held in cooperation with the Quezon City Government, Parks Development Administration and the Ayala Westgrove Heights.

Theme of this year's show is "Discover Orchids." Featured are landscape exhibits using orchids as focal points. A commercial section will sell orchids, other ornamentals and garden tools and supplies, among others.

An added feature is a series of lectures on the various aspects of orchid culture to be held at 2 p.m. daily for the duration of the show.

Schedule of lectures is:

"Flower Arranging with Orchids," Glenn S. Remorca, Aug. 27; "The Essentials for Growing Orchids," Wilhelm G. Ortaliz, Aug. 28; "Growing Philippine Orchid Species," Kehlin Neil B. Manubay, Aug. 29; "Starting Quality Orchid Collection," Andres S. Golamco Jr., Aug. 30; "Growing Vandas and Phalaenopsis," Vicente M. Chin Jr., Aug. 31; "Growing Cattleyas and Dendrobiums," Andres S. Golamco Jr., Sept. 1; "Ensuring the Growth and Survival of Orchid Seedlings," Rolita V. Spowart, Sept. 2; "Orchid Propagation Techniques," Norberto R. Bautista, Sept. 3; "Environment Friendly Orchid Growing," Nonito Dolera, Sept. 4; "Potting and Mounting Orchids," the Conservation Committee Group, Sept. 5; "Landscaping with Orchids," Godofredo B. Salud, Sept. 6.

Call Jenny at 9294425 or visit www.philippineorchidsociety.org.

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THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

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TUMBLE TOTS, Britain's leading pre-school believes that a child learns best through physical play program. This has benefited more than a million children since 1979 and instills in them the confidence to develop basic skills in reading, writing and communication. We believe that every child must have the opportunity to experience the joys of developing new skills and the satisfaction of success.

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Aug. 9-28, 2004

TUMBLE TOTS is an international pre-school for children between 6 mos. to 7 yrs.old.

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- Coral Street, Marfori Subdivision, Davao City; Tel. No.: 082 2251847

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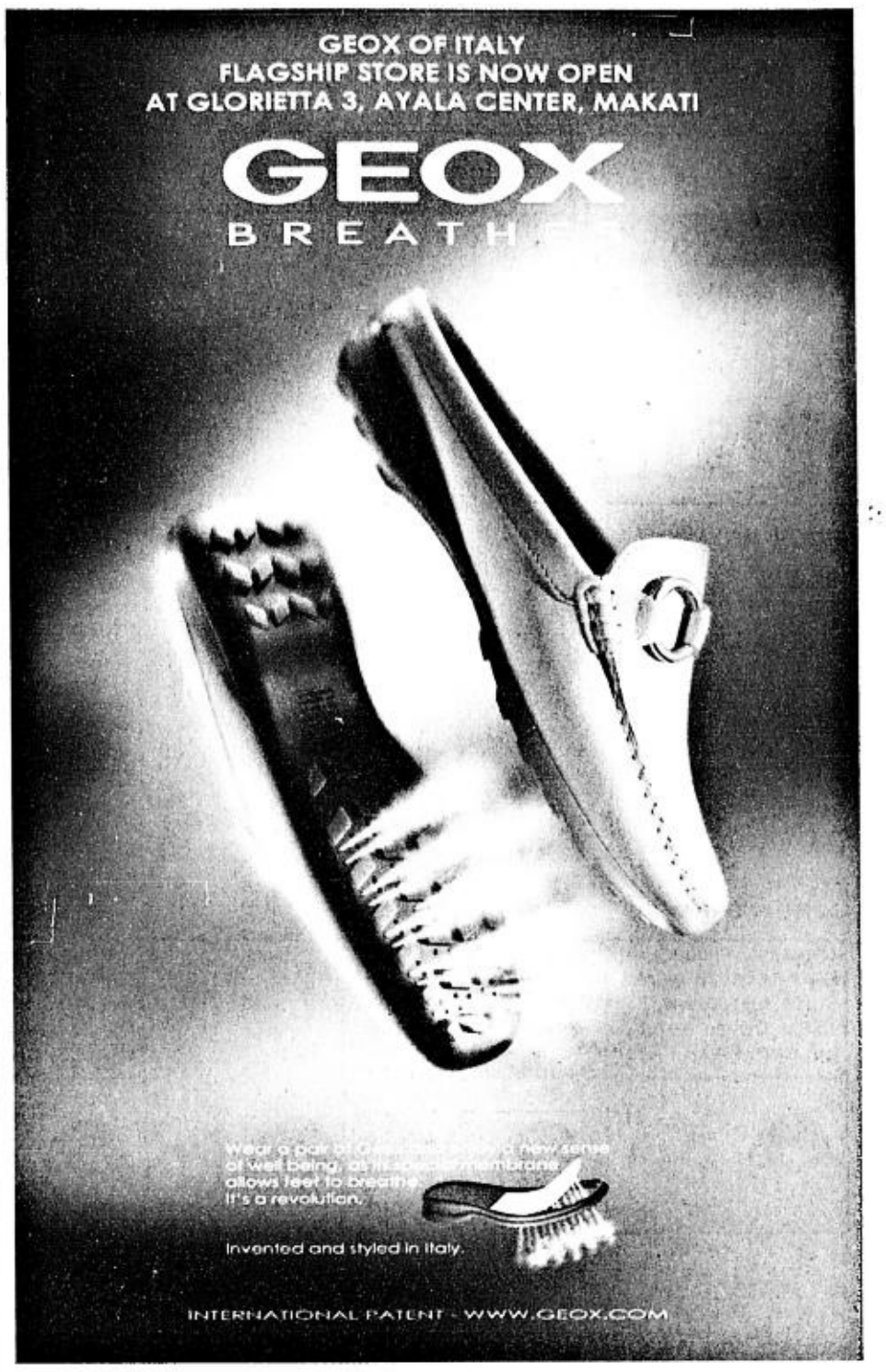
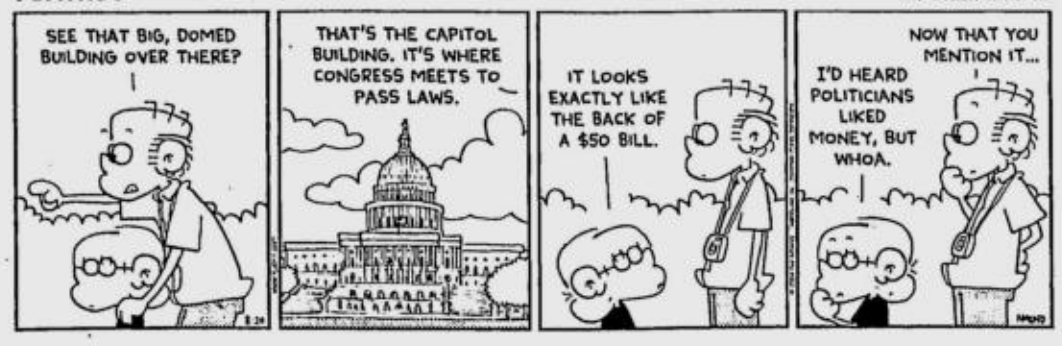


FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very imaginative. Because you're also courageous, you explore new avenues quite easily. Frequently, something (perhaps a secret) in your past motivates your present. At heart, you are quite serious. You're also thoughtful, empathetic and kind. You understand how others feel. Increased solitude this year allows you to learn something important.
Birthdate of: Don King, promoter; Joan Allen, actress; Connie Chung, TV journalist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Remember to set aside time for play, especially playful activities with children. This is an excellent time for vacations, the theater, movies and sports.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Without question, you're strongly focused on home, family and domestic matters now. With possible residential or job changes, you've got a lot to think about!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Increased coursework, reading and writing, plus taking short trips keep you busy. Family reunions and settling old family business require your attention.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is not a good time to buy any kind of ground transportation. Wait until after Sept. 2 to do this. (You'll be glad you did.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a strong time for you now, although financially, things are a bit nuts. You're doing your best to make money, and you're also doing your best to spend it!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're definitely dealing with ex-partners and ex-spouses now. This is actually a good time to clear up unfinished business and negotiations that were left hanging in the wind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. .22): Discussions with friends might help you now. It's important that you talk about your hopes and dreams for the future. Assistance might come from the most unlikely source.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Although you're dealing with a parent or boss more than usual right now, friends from your past are also popping up in the picture. It's old home week. Why not get the clan together?

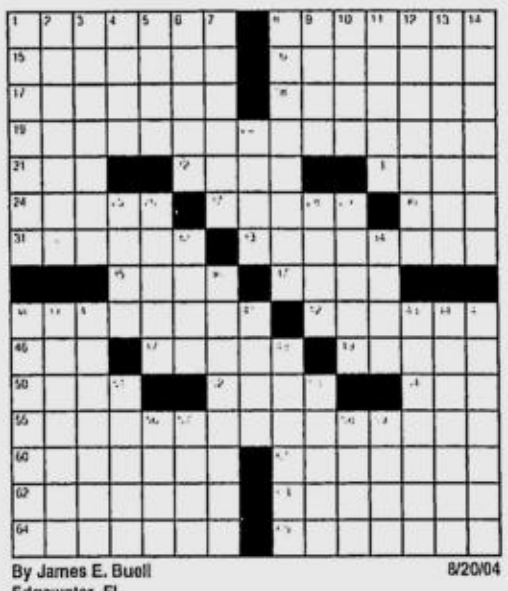
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Some of you have an opportunity to explore previous career options. If you're thinking of changing your job now, go back to places at which you previously applied.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good time to think about how you can improve yourself in any kind of way. Self-help books or courses, plus a new regimen of diet and exercise, can help you now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Now is the time to talk to ex-partners about shared property and shared responsibilities. Try to clear up fuzzy details. Make your wishes known, and establish your boundaries.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You can't escape from ex-partners and dealing with past relationships or the fallout from past relationships right now. That's just what's happening. Actually, it will be surprisingly easy to clear up a lot.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
8/20/04

ACROSS
1 Moneymaker
8 Falling-down drunk
15 Absent with permission
16 Emory University city
17 Like nights in white satin?
18 Decorative wall brackets
19 Stores
21 Formicary resident
22 Millennia
23 Vendor's success
24 Crime site
27 Dish in a lab
30 Alt. spelling
31 Four-door automobiles
33 Layabouts
35 Piece of a ticket
37 Pumpkin or squash
38 Read the Riot Act?
42 Most certain
46 Gallery presentation
47 Backwoods
49 Quartet member
50 Slangy negatives
52 Got that covered
54 Dr. of rap
55 Stores
60 Former
61 Been there, done that
62 Makes piano repairs
63 Chess master Lasker
64 Gets more profound
65 Recidivism

DOWN
1 Navigation device
2 Quantity of prevention?
3 Assigned a position
4 Biddies
5 Colombian metropolis
6 Sheep-ish?
7 Soaked swab
8 End of the line
9 Depict distinctly
10 Rounded lump
11 Turner and Cantrell
12 Isolated ethnic community
13 Outstanding
14 People prone to giving lip
20 "The __ lama he's a priest..."
25 Creator of party animals
26 Keyboard key
28 Wishes undone
29 One's two cents
32 Takei's "Star Trek" role
34 Pierce with a horn
36 High-born lady
38 Koulax, formally
39 Raw recruit
40 Sports figure
41 Magic stick
43 Culminated
44 Combat missions
45 Bridge support
48 Loading device
51 Arrangement
53 Crooner Mel
56 Trigonometric function
57 You said it, brother!
58 Teheran currency
59 Actress Rowlands

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	G	H	A	■	A	D	O	B	E	■	I	C	O	N
B	L	O	C	■	M	E	D	A	L	■	H	O	B	E
O	U	R	C	H	I	L	D	R	L	N	K	N	O	W
R	E	S	E	E	■	■	G	I	V	A	■	G	F	T
T	R	E	P	A	N	S	■	C	A	D	G	E	■	■
■	■	■	T	R	I	P	L	E	■	T	I	A	R	A	S
S	I	M	■	T	H	A	T	W	E	A	R	E	N	T
O	N	O	S	■	■	W	H	O	■	■	B	E	T	E
Y	O	U	N	G	E	N	O	U	G	H	■	I	I	P
A	N	S	A	R	A	■	S	L	O	O	P	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	P	E	C	S	■	D	A	R	E	S	A	Y
E	I	A	■	C	H	O	P	■	■	■	A	T	O	N	E
T	O	K	I	O	W	A	L	L	T	H	I	N	G	S
C	R	A	W	■	A	V	O	I	D	■	T	A	L	E
H	O	S	T	■	P	E	T	I	S	■	E	R	O	S

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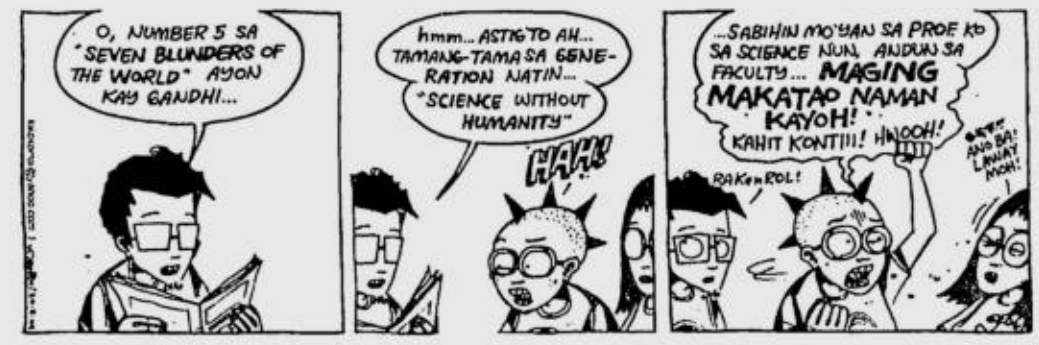
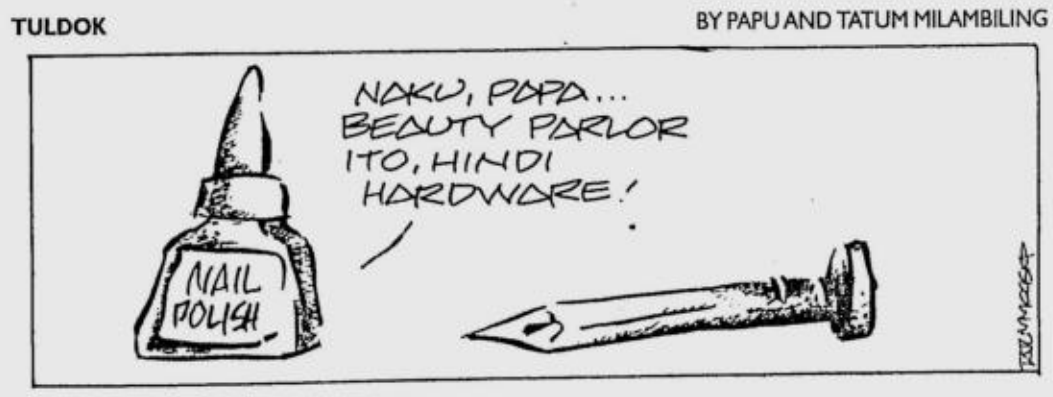
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Clean and green consumption is key

YOU WANT business and industry to be clean? Then be a "clean" consumer first. Meaning, buy only what you need and you'll pollute less. This, in very simple terms, is what the Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Production and Consumption (APRSPC) is working for. APRSCP collaborates with the United Nations and other international donor-organizations like the Asian Development Bank and Inwent of Germany. Resolutions to such problems are approached from three sides—the environmental, social and economic, referred to as Triple Bottomline. Since most issues are inter-related this way, any gains from one side are bound to affect the other two.

APRS has been around for the past seven years. Though focused mainly on industries and the business sector that are known to have polluting tendencies, it also seeks the involvement and support of all stakeholders—the government, the academe, NGOs, communities, and just about everyone. As APRSCP is a policy advocacy body, it helps give Cleaner Production (CP) inputs for Congress or any other group in need of capacity building and growth. It organizes workshops, training seminars, conferences where experts are brought in, exposing participants to environmental issues of the day.

APRSCP has also developed an Environmental Performance Indicator (EPI) for industries to measure how they're doing in the areas of air, water, energy, solid and toxic waste. For instance, the Philippines, which is generally known to have very good environmental laws, nevertheless lags in its programs because those laws are not properly implemented.

APRSCP may cover specific Asia-Pacific areas but it goes beyond regional limits as it includes 27 countries worldwide. The Philippines is represented by Dr. Olivia laO Castillo, a business administrator and founding member of the organization which incidentally, was originally called Asia Pacific Roundtable for Cleaner Production until it became evident that not only the production processes needed to be clean but consumers' ways as well. There was also need for wider coverage in view of the UN's globalization thrust. The name was changed last June. Earlier, steps were taken to clarify the Roundtable's goals, like the Millennium Declaration that paved the way for the Millennium Development Goals. These were mainly to reduce poverty and improve people's lives.

Castillo explains that all member countries help bring in their inputs on "emerging issues," like strategic action plans on cleaner production and consumption for lawmakers in aid of legislation. Castillo is not only the lone Filipino in the APRSCP, she is also the only other Asian appointed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to the Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. The other is the board's chair, Ryutaro Hashimoto, former prime minister of Japan. The Board was created July this year to address the global problem of water scarcity where a great number of people have no access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Filipinos who face these same problems will welcome the day this board begins serving here.

Castillo is of course honored by the appointments. They are opportunities to serve the country and to use her experience in the Business Departments of both Miriam (formerly Maryknoll) College and the University of Asia and the Pacific. In addition, she was policy advisor to the Lead International Management Board in London, and at Lund University in Sweden, she mentored graduate students of its Environmental Department.

She announces that other projects in APRSCP's drafting board include the greening of the financial sector-banks, insurance companies, investors, etc. for which a workshop will be held in Manila next month in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme. Another is the introduction of the Green Village concept which will show what clean consumption can do when only environmental-friendly materials are used in construction. These promise to be fruitful events.

Green lawyers file suit

Lawyers who are advocates of environmental protection have filed with the Supreme Court a Petition for Mandamus to compel the Congress, the Senate, Office of the President, DENR and the Department of Budget and Management to implement the constitutional mandate of determining the specific limits of forest lands and national parks with clear marking of boundaries.

The lawyers, headed by Antoniq Oposa Jr., are members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-National Environmental Action Team (IBP-NEAT). To protect our forest lands, they say we must know where they are so their delineation must be done now before it is too late.

E-mail feedback to dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Trees for sale

BIG trees with heights ranging from 8-15 ft are available for sale at the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation (MSBF) at only P400 per tree.

MSBF has grown these trees to maturity, ensuring greater chances of survival. They are planted in big plastic pots measuring 28 in x 30 in, with a potting medium mix of compost and garden soil.

The public is invited to see the trees within the MSBF compound, which has fruit trees, forest trees and ornamentals. MSBF is also making available forest and fruit tree seedlings and vegetable combo packs.

Call 9299312 or 9247001/02.

Digital lifestyle on exhibit

TODAY'S technology links up our activities at home, the workplace, learning centers, health facilities, business, entertainment and practically everything that makes life comfortable. Every gadget that sings, talks, snaps images, or provides entertainment are practically extensions of our lifestyle.

Many questions about our evolving digital lifestyle will be answered on Oct. 7-9, as the leading computer industry players gather for COMDDAP Expo Manila 2004 at The NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig.

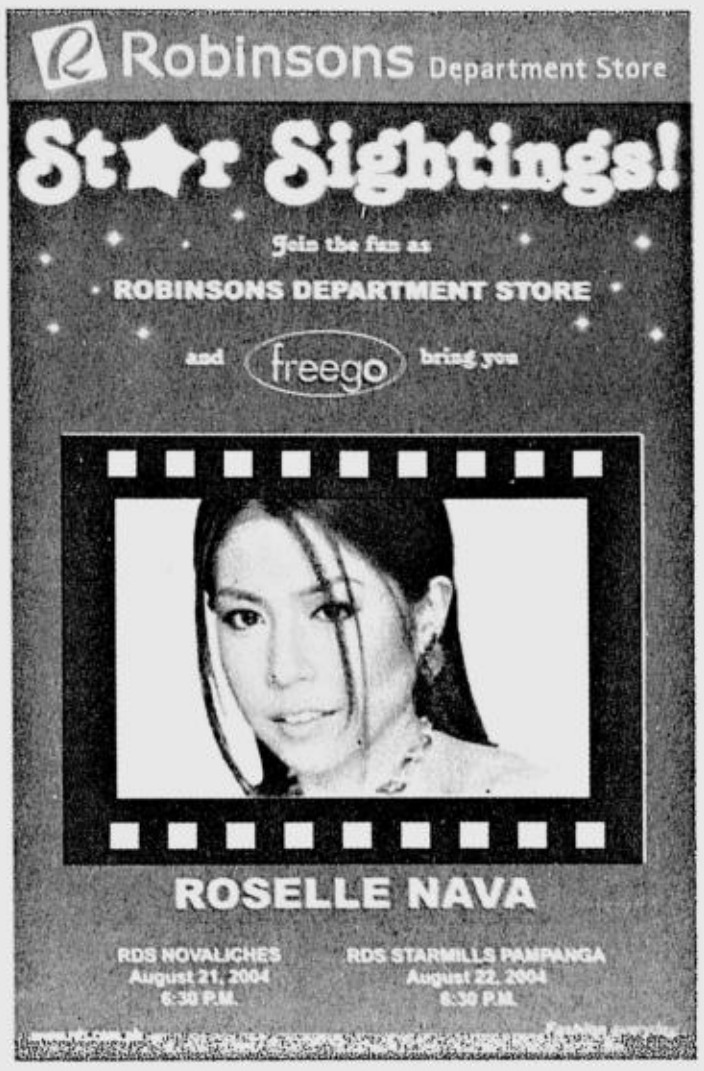
Organized by the Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines, the event is said to be the biggest information and communications technology exhibition in the country.

"In many ways, COMDDAP Expo Manila 2004 provides a window to a world that merges life and technology," says COMDDAP treasurer and Expo Manila 2004 chair Juan Chua.

The event is the best time for tech-savvy individual buyers and forward-looking companies to plan their needs for next year. It is also a venue where they can interact with technical teams of leading computer players, who will explain and demonstrate the practical applications of their products and services.

Industry giants Columbia Global Photo Sales, Canon Marketing, Hewlett Packard and Samsung lead the pack of exhibitors. Other notable participants include Acrotech, Astech Pengson, Banbros Commercial Inc., Creative, CT Link Greentech, Innovista Technologies, LAMCO, Microdata, MSI Digiland (Phils) Inc., Nexus, Redwood Ventures and Wordtext Systems Inc., among others.

Call 7509456 or e-mail ginavildim@comddap.org, exhibit@comddap.org, and info@comddap.org.



Creativity workshop set

GOINGS ON

"TAPPING the Creative Universe," a creativity workshop is set on Sept. 6, 8, 9, 13, 15 and 17, 7-9 p.m., at Rockwell Club, Amorsolo Drive, Rockwell, Makati. The workshop runs for six sessions, and only one absence is allowed. Workshop fee is P5,000 (six sessions) inclusive of snacks. Call 4265375/ 9290230.

CIRCUS SHOWS. Catch the remaining shows of the world famous Imperial Circus at the Ayala Center Cebu on Aug. 20 (11 a.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.), Aug. 21 (11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.), and Aug. 22 (11:30 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.).

INSTALLATION. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Philippine Committee will hold its installation ceremonies for its officers and board of trustees for biennium 2004-2006 on Aug. 24, 4 p.m., at Fairways, Manila Golf Club, Makati City. UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) Resident Representative Deborah Landey will swear in the new board and officers.

WITH growing customer awareness and demands for business to become more responsible to the environment, ACS became the first company to be given the Green Choice-Philippines seal of approval, as seen in the packaging of its flagship products, Pride Washing Machine detergent powder and Pride detergent bar. ACS president Alfonso Supetran and Lourdes Supetran (extreme right) received the award from President Macapagal-Arroyo and Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun (left) during the awarding ceremonies at Hotel InterContinental, Makati City.

BAR TOUR. Motorola E398 holds its Mad About Moto Bar Tour on Aug. 24 at Vbar; Sept. 11, Halo; Sept. 17, Club V; and Sept. 18, Peligro.

BAZAAR. The Mid-Year Angel Sent Bazaar slated on Aug. 28-29 at the lower lobby of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong not only offers low-price and quality products but works from charity, NGO and religious organizations as well. Admission is free. Call 8250804/ 8253482.

PLAY. Meralco Theater stages the musical play "Laura" on Sept. 11, 12, 18 and 19. It features the life of Blessed Laura Vicuna. Proceeds of the play will be used for the Agri-Tech Center for out-of-school and indigenous young people of Parang, Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, and other projects of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

BAZAAR. The first Women's Lifestyle Exhibition and Bazaar titled "All About Her" will be held on Sept. 18-19 at The Forum, PICC CCP Complex, Pasay City. The bazaar offers RTW, accessories, housewares and delicacies. Call 8250804/8253482.

NEW RETAIL HUB. City Walk II is the new retail center in Eastwood City Walk, Libis, QC. City Walk II features four new restaurants, 29 shops, four Dolby Digital EX cinemas, Paeng's Bowl and Billiard Center and Q Power Station.

REVIEW CLASSES. The Philippine Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science Inc., (PATLS) in cooperation with the Department of Library and Information Science, College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature of Philippine Normal University will hold its Annual Review Classes for Librarians every Sunday starting Aug. 29-Oct. 24, at PNU library conference room. Call 3027717.

For Spotless and Blemish-Free Skin

A Blemish Eraser That Really *Works!*

Picture-perfect skin can now be a reality with IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment. No other procedure has ever been developed that can accomplish so much with so little risk and downtime.

Janet Ley, enjoying her clear, flawless skin.

One satisfied client, Janet Ley, relates her happiness with IPL: "I like it. I really like it because after only my second treatment, my freckles are gone!"

IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment helps banish freckles, dark spots, and spider veins without a trace. According to Janet, "I believe my freckles became more prominent as I got older. So whenever I went out of the house, I would use face powder to cover them up. But now I don't use anything anymore because they're all gone! And now people would tell me that I have really nice, flawless skin."

IPL is a gentle, non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to treat the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere that sun damage or blemishes show. It uses the Intense Pulsed Light technology to correct a variety of skin conditions such as skin imperfections: freckles, skin discoloration, signs of ageing, age spots, unsightly spider veins, broken capillaries, rosacea and other blemishes. Facial Care Centre's Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya says, "IPL's amazing results include: better skin tone, reduced blotchiness, pigmentations and broken blood vessels, smoother surface texture, and a more youthful-looking skin."

To restore an overall youthful look, IPL can simultaneously treat a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It erases skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's surface unlike other conventional

Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

treatments. As another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres, would attest: "Im an avid golfer so Ih very much exposed to the sun. That's how I had freckles. And Ive tried every whitening product you can possibly think of: whitening cream, whitening lotion, sunblock, scrub, I even bought this thing from Hong Kong that you're supposed to drink to lighten your skin...nothing! It lightens up your skin for a while but you can't expose yourself to the sun anymore. And for avid players like me, that's totally unthinkable! So when I tried IPL, I was really impressed. Just after the first treatment, there were already visible, dramatic results! IPL is really the only treatment that worked for me."

Another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres.

Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya with the IPL machine.

Like Dr. Torres and Janet Ley, many satisfied clients have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles, and other skin discoloration. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have fairer, even-toned, glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day, as if nothing happened at all!

Now isn't this the best news for your skin?

To know more about IPL Photorejuvenation, just call Facial Care Centre at 892-SKIN. That's 892-7546.

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■ Super / F3
Super thanks God it's Pride Day Aug 21-28

■ Metro / A19
Cop escorts of 'treasure hunter' held at WPD

■ Science / B10
Healthfix: Use your coconuts

Ted Kennedy mistaken for terrorist 5 times

WASHINGTON—The meeting had all the hallmarks of an ordinary congressional hearing. There was Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat—Mass., discussing the problems faced by or-

TED KENNEDY/ A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

GMA 9th on list of world's most powerful women

THE PHILIPPINES' Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is No. 9 in Forbes magazine's list of the world's 100 most powerful women.

The list is topped by Condoleezza Rice, the national security adviser of US President George W. Bush, with China's Vice Premier Wu Yi and Sonia Gandhi, the president of India's ruling Congress Party who wields im-

GMA/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, August 21, 2004 ★★★ 60 pages / 7 sections / vol. 19 / no. 255 P18
website: www.inq7.net

New witnesses to tell all

DOJ: Ninoy murder case up for review

By Philip C. Tubeza and Leila B. Salaverria

ANOTHER anniversary, another possibility of reopening the 1983 double-murder case. But the interest in the truth is "seasonal."

With the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) having collected the sworn statements of the remaining 14 soldiers convicted of killing ex-Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and his supposed gunman Rolando Galman, the Department of Justice has appointed four lawyers led by State Prosecutor Olivia Non to determine if the case can be revived.

"In the interest of justice, and if there is a need, then why not reopen it?" Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez, the outgoing acting justice secretary, said yesterday.

"I think the Aquino family will be glad to know if previously hidden information is discovered and this leads to the identification of the mastermind," she said.

PAO chief Persida Rueda-Acosta said in a phone interview that civilian witnesses had offered to shed light on the case but that she would have to evaluate whatever information they would give.

She said the witnesses phoned her soon after she was assigned to evaluate the convicts' statements. She quoted them as saying that they came out only now because they felt this was the right time.

"They are ready to talk, especially now that M/Sgt. [Pablo] Martinez has spoken up," she said.

Martinez, one of the convicts, had earlier submitted an affidavit saying that a close relative of former President Corazon Aquino had masterminded the killings. He made the statement in the hope of reopening the case.

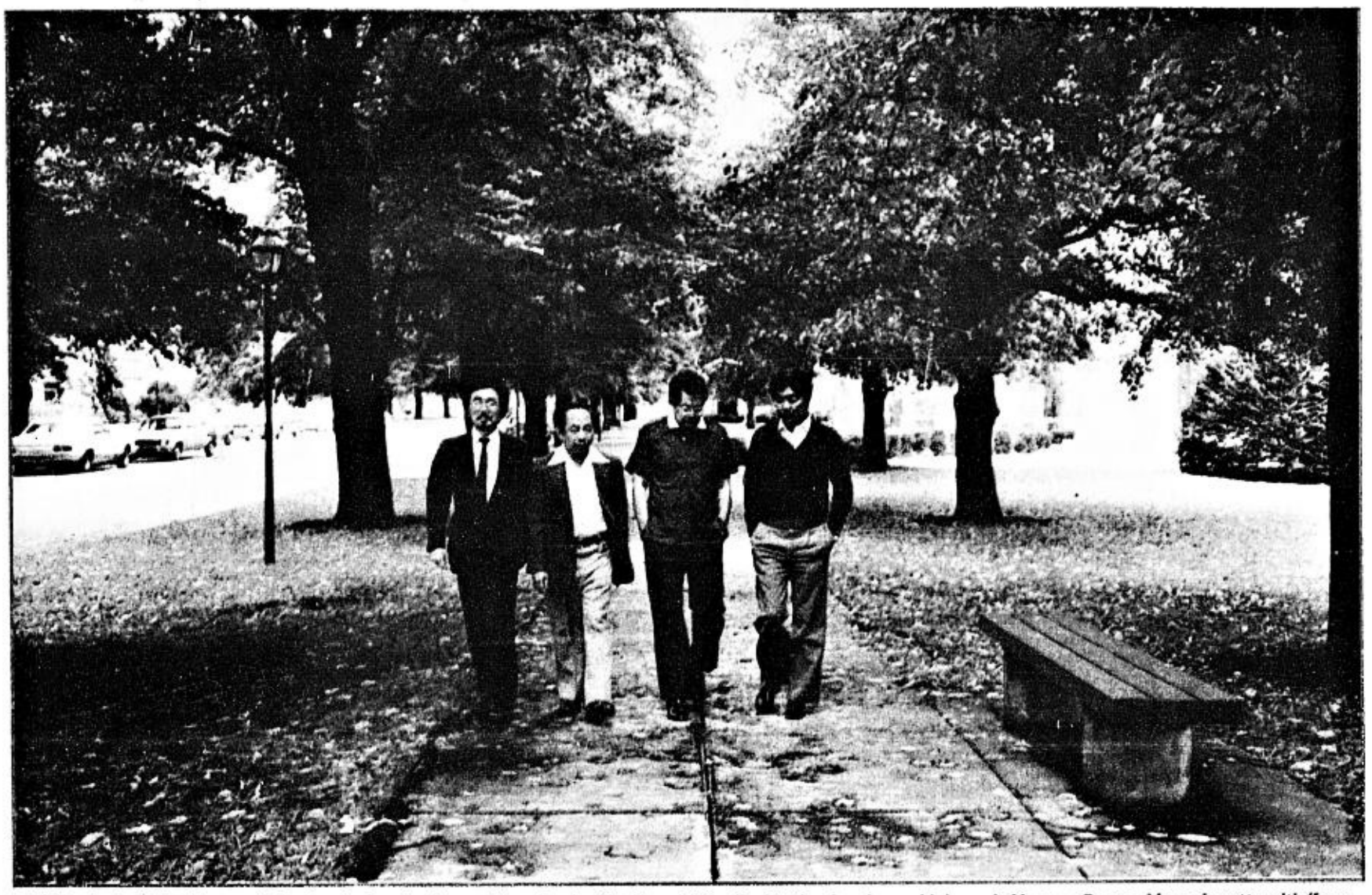
Acosta refused to provide details on the civilian witnesses, saying *"baka may mangyaring hindi maganda* (something bad might happen)."

But she said one had claimed to have proof that Galman was indeed the gunman, as well as personal knowledge of the medico-legal examination conducted on the latter.

She also said another witness, supposedly a forensics expert, had offered help in examining the trajectory of the bullet that killed Aquino.

She noted that this was a crucial

NEW WITNESSES/ A18



LAST day in the United States, before leaving for the airport, Ninoy Aquino (3rd from left) walked to the church near his home in Newton, Boston, Massachusetts, with (from left) Japanese journalist Kiyoshi Wakamiya who traveled with him to Manila, Jose Calderon and Heherson Alvarez. PHOTO COURTESY OF HEHERSON ALVAREZ

Smile, you're on surveillance camera

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IF YOU were one of those who visited Ninoy Aquino during the eight years (1972 to 1980) that he was in a military prison, chances are a photograph of yourself is among the hundreds that the military had studied and kept in their dossiers for whatever purpose they might have served.

And chances are your photo/s are now in the archives of Ninoy's widow, former President Corazon Aquino.

Hasn't Cory sent you a copy yet?

During her presidency that started after the 1986 People Power Revolt that toppled the Marcos dictatorship, Aquino received a stack of photographs from the military.

Many of the original copies the military gave her had notes on the back, Aquino said. She had not asked for the photos, she had never seen them before.

"There were hundreds of these photographs," Aquino told the INQUIRER a few days ago while looking at the enlarged copy she had sent a nun friend some years ago. Yes, she remembered having sent it, along with a letter, a frame and medicine, and being thanked warmly for it.

Aquino recalled that every person who visited Ninoy in prison had first to be put on a list and go through a process of approval. Visitors had to be thoroughly frisked, groped, if not almost undressed and, of course, photographed even without their being aware of it.

Ninoy's family and friends had to endure this demeaning process. The nervous ones could not help wondering what the repercussions of the visits might be to them.

SMILE/ A18

ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

UNAWARE that they were being photographed and bugged, Ninoy, Cory (in dark glasses) and family share a meal at Fort Bonifacio.

4 men who held key to the murders

By Raymond C. Burgos
Contributor

(Formerly a PDI reporter, the author was the first to talk to the soldiers convicted in the Aquino-Galman murders and wrote a series of stories in this paper based on his interviews particularly with Martinez. He now writes a column for Abante.)

TWO OF the four men are in their graves. The two others are on distant shores, one of them now earning a living as a commercial pilot in Seattle.

They are the four men who might have helped clear up some of the mysteries that have surrounded the assassination of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy"

4 MEN/ A8

JIM GUMAO PUNZALAN

GENTLY GOES THE LADY INTO THE LIGHT. At La Salle Greenhills Chapel, President Arroyo visits with Mila Magsaysay-Valenzuela and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., daughter and son of Mrs. Luz Banzon-Magsaysay, first lady of the Philippines' best-loved President. Mrs. Magsaysay will be laid to rest today at the North Cemetery beside her husband after the 9 a.m. Mass.

Please don't quit, minority asks Nene

By Christine O. Avendaño

DON'T quit, Nene.

This is the message of Senate minority members to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who wants to resign as minority leader.

Senators Edgardo Angara and Panfilo Lacson confirmed to the INQUIRER that Pimentel had sent them separate text messages which said he was quitting as minority leader "effective immediately."

Pimentel made the decision after last Wednesday's controversial vote on the amendment of the legislative agenda of Congress wherein he was the lone minority senator who supported the proposal with 12 majority senators.

Except for Angara, who did not attend Wednesday's session, all seven remaining minority senators voted against the proposal that was subsequently approved that night.

Lacson said he had sent Pimentel a text message asking him to reconsider his decision.

Angara, who was in Quezon

PLEASE/ A9

Dismissed exec witness vs Marcoses

By Armand N. Nocum

AN OFFICIAL of the Bureau of Internal Revenue who was dismissed from service for failing the lifestyle check has turned out to be a key government witness in the graft and forfeiture cases against the heirs of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

And now that he himself is under question for his assets, lawyer Arnel A. Bernardo is apprehensive that the cases pending before the Sandiganbayan and other courts against the dictator's widow, Imelda Marcos, and their children, relatives and cronies could also be affected.

"I fear that defense lawyers may also question the veracity of my testimony now," said Bernardo, whose testimony at the Sandiganbayan had helped the government recover Marcos assets in San Juan and in Leyte.

Bernardo, 46, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that the Supreme Court had resolved some of the forfeiture cases with finality, but that the doubts now being raised on his integrity might give the Marcoses'

DISMISSED/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

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SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEVESA, INQUIRER RESEARCH/08/21/04

Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Cops in Jaworski-Yap shootout in hot water

By Fe B. Zamora and Philip C. Tubeza

MEMBERS of the Philippine National Police present at the June 21 Jaworski-Yap shootout in Mandaluyong could face possible criminal or administrative sanctions, Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes said yesterday during a forum at the Ambassador Hotel in Malate.

He has directed the National Police Commission (Napolcom) to investigate the policemen present at the crime scene to find out the extent of their participation during the 10-minute gunfire that wounded a son of a former senator.

The probe will look into why PNP Sr. Supts. Nicanor Bartolome and Benjamin Landrito, who were dining at a restaurant nearby, did not turn over their bullet-ridden vehicles as evidence. Instead, they had them repaired prior to an investigation.

The vehicles were damaged during the shootout allegedly between the groups of Ryan Joseph Jaworksi and Anjelo Elton Yap. Both have claimed they were unarmed.

According to an INQUIRER police source, the aides of Bartolome and Landrito, who were also present during the incident "may know more than the investigators."

Earlier, police investigation failed to establish who initiated the shootout.

"The reinvestigation could involve criminal or administrative sanctions. I don't want to prejudge the case." Reyes said. He clarified, however, that his order was for the reinvestigation of the case, not the filing of charges.

Investigators will also look into reports that Ryan, son of former senator Robert Jaworski, allegedly owns 11 licensed firearms.

It was learned that Bartolome and Landrito would no longer pursue the malicious mischief complaints they filed against the Jaworskis and the Yaps since Mandaluyong Prosecutor Elenita C. Dimaguila had dismissed the criminal charges against them.

The Department of Justice, however, is set to review the dismissal of the charges.

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Dimaguila found several inadequacies in the police investigation, leading the Mandaluyong prosecutor to rule that the police "failed to establish probable cause against the respondents."

OATH-TAKING
President Macapagal-Arroyo swears into office new Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap. A former administrator of the National Food Authority, Yap replaces outgoing Agriculture Secretary Luis 'Cito' Lorenzo Jr. Looking on is Yap's son. VAL HANDUMON

Honest NY taxi driver regains citizenship

By Martin P. Marfil

NESTOR Sulpico, the honest Filipino-American taxi driver who returned $70,000 worth of black pearls to its owner, not only regained his Filipino citizenship, he also won a citation and a cash award from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Thank you for making us proud," Ms Arroyo told Sulpico, 47, as she handed him a presidential citation and a cash reward of P100,000.

On Thursday, Sulpico filed a petition at the Bureau of Immigration for dual citizenship. It was approved several hours later after he met all the qualifications prescribed under Republic Act 9225.

Sulpico was born in Laganes, Iloilo on Oct. 9, 1956 and migrated to the United States several years ago where he later became a US citizen.

No bidding required for North Rail—Neda

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority did not seek out other offers for the $503-million North Rail project that has been awarded to China because all projects involving so-called "tied loans" do not require bidding, according to Socio-economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri.

If anything, the Philippines should be grateful to House Speaker Jose de Venecia who used his close ties with officials in the Chinese government to get a $200-million discount in the construction cost of the diesel-fed railway that will run from Caloocan City to Malolos in Bulacan province.

DMCI Holdings, which is part of the original proponents of the North Rail project, questioned Neda's award of the project to the China Eximbank without going through a bidding process that, he said, would have ensured that the government obtained the best terms.

Businessmen have also urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to go slow on the project and reassess the costs and benefits considering the state of the government's finances. The North Rail project will top the agenda of the President's scheduled state visit to Beijing early next month.

In an interview, Neri explained that all government projects funded by bilateral loans from foreign governments—with the exception of Japanese ODA loans—are not required to go through a bidding process as these loans are given on a "take it or leave it basis."

He said that when a foreign government like China offers to bankroll a local infrastructure project, Neda's only concern was to ensure that the contract price was fair and that its services and equipment conform with international standards.

Neda consultant Ruben S. Reinoso cited Republic Act No. 9184 as the basis for the exemption from bidding of projects with tied loans. The latter refers to loans for projects in which the lending country requires that the money it is giving be used for the purchase of machinery and equipment from it.

In the North Rail case, Neri said the Export-Import Bank of China (China Eximbank) initially offered to build the project at a cost of slightly more than $600 million, a concessional loan payable in 10 years at 7 percent interest.

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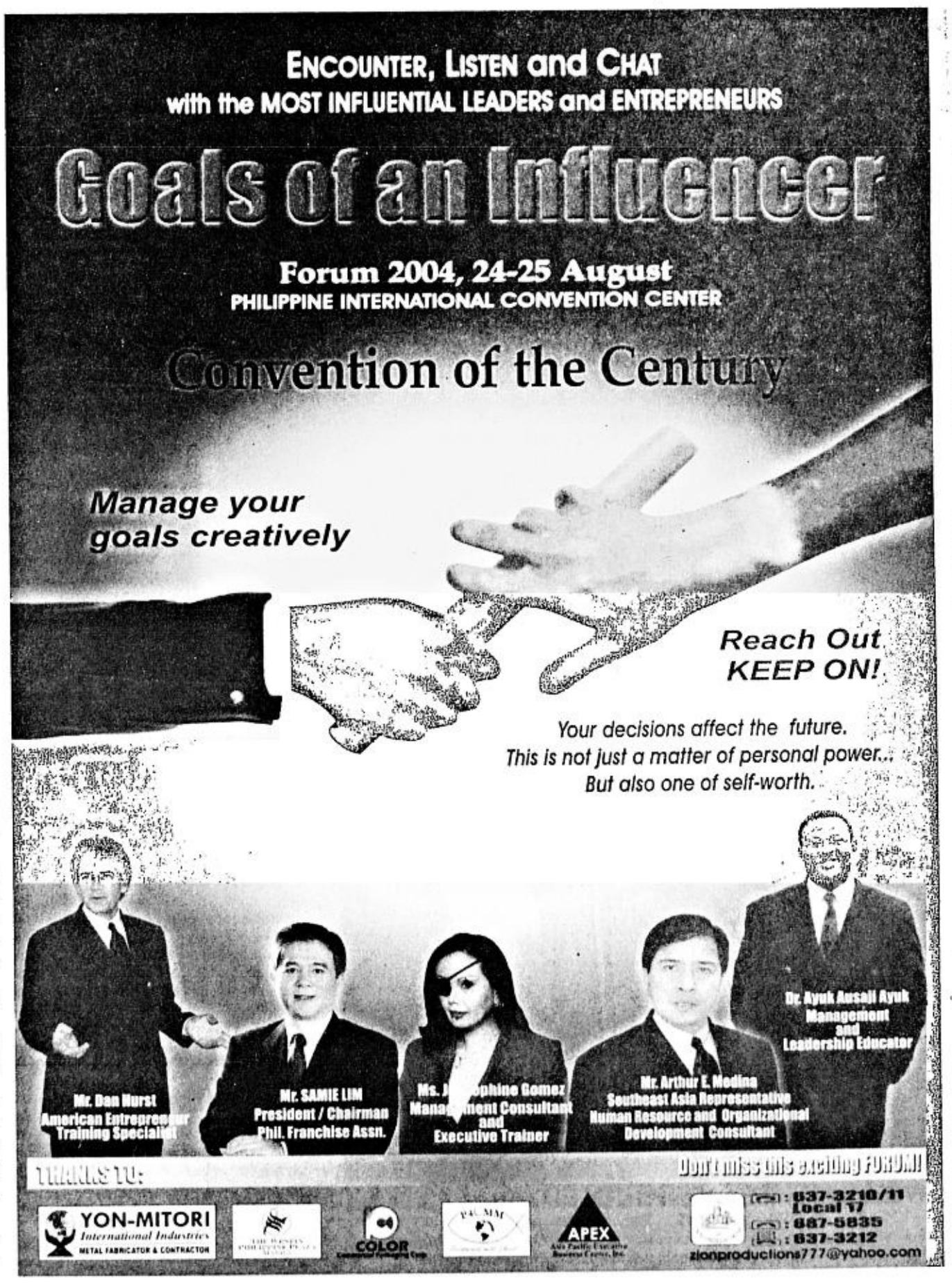

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COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/JOB/21/04

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2004

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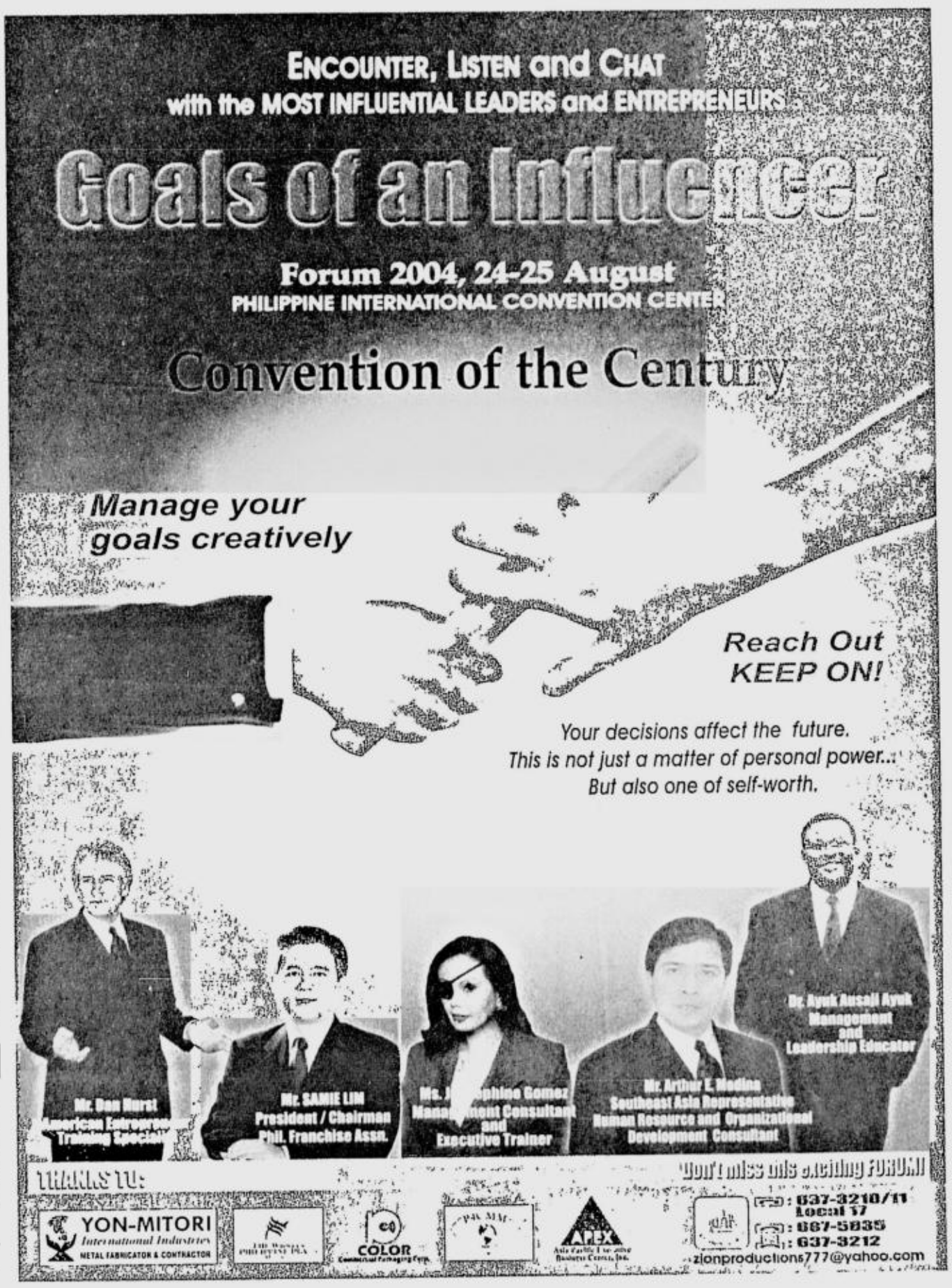

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GMA 9th on list of world's most powerful women

From page A1

mense influence behind the scenes after turning down the job of prime minister, in second and third places, according to a Forbes press statement released yesterday in Singapore.

Top Singapore businesswoman Ho Ching, the media-shy wife of newly installed Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, is the notable non-politician appearing in the list to be carried in the US magazine's Sept. 6 issue.

In fourth place is US First Lady Laura Bush, followed by US Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, another US Supreme Court justice, is No. 7, trailed by Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, Ms Arroyo and Hewlett-Packard chair and chief executive Carly Fiorina.

Malacañang expressed gratitude for Ms Arroyo's inclusion in Forbes' list of powerful women.

"It's an honor for her to be included in the list. Forbes is a prestigious publication read by top decision-makers in the world," said her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

"It must also be pointed out that our President is cognizant of her role in this crucial period in our history, and she exercises this power with great humility and responsibility," Bunye said.

Forbes said it came up with the list by devising a power scorecard.

"For each candidate, we came up with a numerical weight defined by her title and resumé, the size of the economic sphere in which she wields power ... and the number of global media mentions," the magazine said.

Current heads of state were given more weight than former ones.

Others in Asia-Pacific

Among the other Asia-Pacific women in the list are Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia (14), New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark (43), Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga (44) and Burma opposition leader and Nobel laureate Ang San Suu Kyi (45).

Singapore's Ho, who runs the state investment arm Temasek Holdings, is No. 24, reflecting her influence as manager of the city-state's multibillion-dollar global business empire.

Peng Peiyun, president of the All-China Women's Federation, is No. 47 in the list, while Xie Qihua, chair and president of the Shanghai Baosteel Group, is No. 55.

BEHIND the shades to conceal her sore eyes, the President is not behind schedule as she goes about a normally busy day on Friday even at the risk of spreading the highly-contagious irritant. VAL HANDUMON

Heiresses

Forbes said the list had made "a refreshing break from the conventional wisdom about women and power" by breaking the notion that women could only gain power by working behind the scenes and forging consensus.

The list also included heiresses, media and entertainment personalities, queens and the wives of political leaders.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is No. 21, and Britain's first lady, Cherie Blair, No. 12.

Queen Rania of Jordan is No. 13; Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, No. 22; and US television host Barbara Walters, No. 25. *AFP; Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Dismissed exec witness ...

From page A1

lawyers a good reason to question the tribunal's ruling as well.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo has upheld the dismissal order issued on Bernardo, a former BIR examiner, for allegedly amassing more than P20 million in questionable circumstances.

Bernardo had filed a motion for reconsideration on the ruling, saying that he had received P8 million in donation in 2001 and that he had declared it in his statement of assets and liabilities.

But Marcelo said that even if Bernardo had included the supposed donation in his SAL, he did not show proof of its legality.

"The law is explicit when it stated that other legitimately acquired property does not include donated property, unless the same has been shown to have been lawfully acquired," Marcelo said, adding:

"In view of the failure of [Bernardo] to show proof that the P8,000,000 donation was lawfully acquired, the same is deemed to be unlawfully acquired."

Marcelo likewise did not buy Bernardo's defense that he had paid a total of P650,876 in taxes in connection with a P1-million property he acquired in 1999.

The Ombudsman also noted that Bernardo did not justify the P400,000 increase in his 1999 assets from his posted net worth of P12,049,573 in 1998.

Other means of income

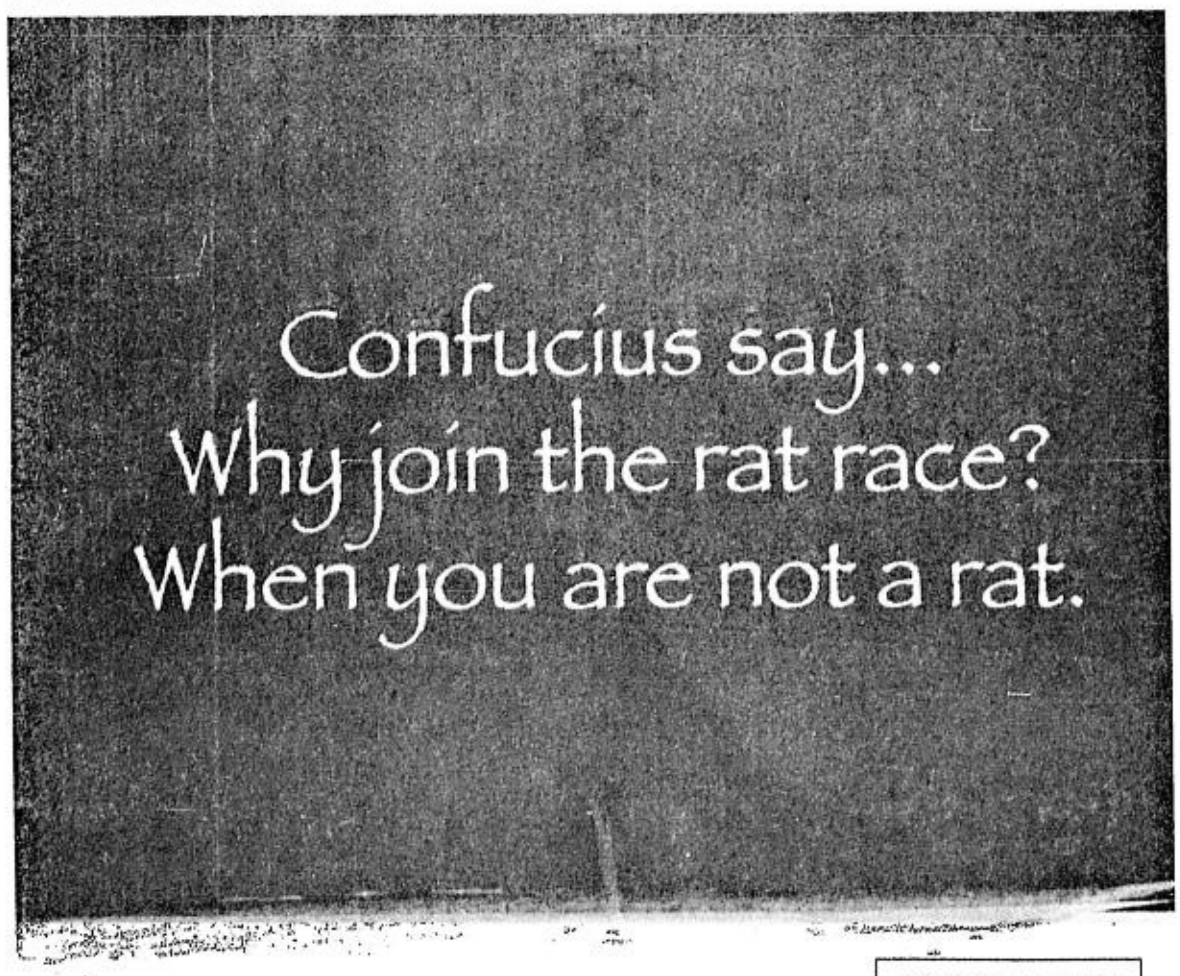
Bernardo, however, said he would take his case to the Court of Appeals.

He said the Ombudsman had "gravely erred" in upholding his dismissal because he had other means of income, including two lottery stations in Manila and Quezon City, a gift shop in Manila, a 12-door apartment building and a number of boarding houses.

"I put up my businesses knowing that my government salary is not enough to support my family," he said.

But in his ruling, Marcelo said: "Bernardo's claim does not appear to deserve merit. Even if we consider his alleged other income, it will reveal that such acquisition has not been adequately justified."

Marcelo also noted that on top of the land acquisition in 1999, Bernardo and his family traveled abroad that year.



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LET'S GO TO IRAQ: An OFW (overseas Filipino worker) shouts slogans while clutching a Holy Rosary during a rally near Malacañang on Friday, to urge President Arroyo to lift the ban of sending contract workers to Iraq. AP

Hop aboard a flight attendant's adventures with myGlobe G-Blogs

About Globetrotter

I'm Carlo de la Paz, a flight steward for one of the country's top airlines. One of the perks of my job is the opportunity it gives me to travel around the country practically for free. I like to post blogs online because it allows me to share my travel experiences with other island hoppers. So, when I heard that Globe has a new service called G-Blogs, which allows me to post entries using my Globe Handyphone, I immediately registered at http://g-blogs.com using my PC!

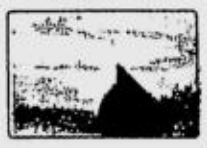
With myGlobe's new G-Blog site I can now post an entry either online or via SMS. I can even conveniently upload photos from my camera phone to my G-Blog site via MMS. I have already posted several entries on myGlobe G-Blog which my friends can download into their cellphones. Surprising as it may seem, friends who used to rib me about my blogging habits are now also very much into G-Blogs! So fellow G-Bloggers, fasten your seat belts and prepare for a trip around the country with my G-Blog. Check out these sample entries from my G-Blog site!

Globetrotter Blog: August 16, 2004
Place: Panglao Island

Entry: Alonah Beach in Panglao Island was fantastic! My pals and I spent an awesome day at the beach getting a tan and a good workout playing beach volleyball with tourists from other countries.

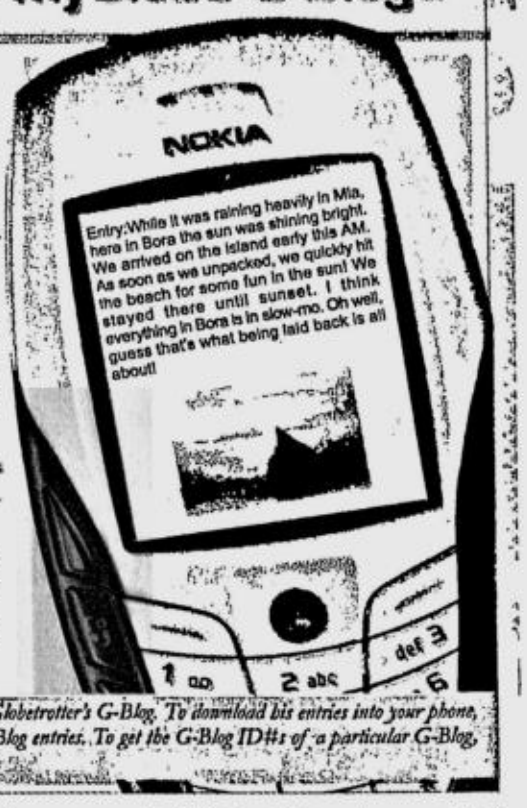
Globetrotter Blog: August 19, 2004
Place: Laoag, Ilocos Norte

Entry: Today, my crewmates and I drove over from Laoag to Vigan to go on a gourmet food trip. My friend once said, food lures you to Vigan but the romantic mood makes you stay. Later, a *calesa* ride along the *mestizo* district made me want to fall in love. If only I had my gf here now instead of just her pic on my fone...



Globetrotter Blog: August 20, 2004
Place: Boracay

Entry: While it was raining heavily in Mia, here in Bora the sun was shining bright. We arrived on the island early this AM. As soon as we unpacked, we quickly hit the beach for some fun in the sun! We stayed there until sunset. I think everything in Bora is in slow-mo. Oh well, guess that's what being laid back is all about!



If you want to see more about Carlo's cross-country adventures, just log onto his G-Blog site. Just visit and search for Globetrotter's G-Blog. To download his entries into your phone, just send GET <G-Blog ID#s> and send to 2815. Each P5.00 download allows you to view up to three of his G-Blog entries. To get the G-Blog ID#s of a particular G-Blog, send INQ <G-Blog name> to 2815. Note: the G-Blog name is the word or phrase at the end of the G-Blog URL.

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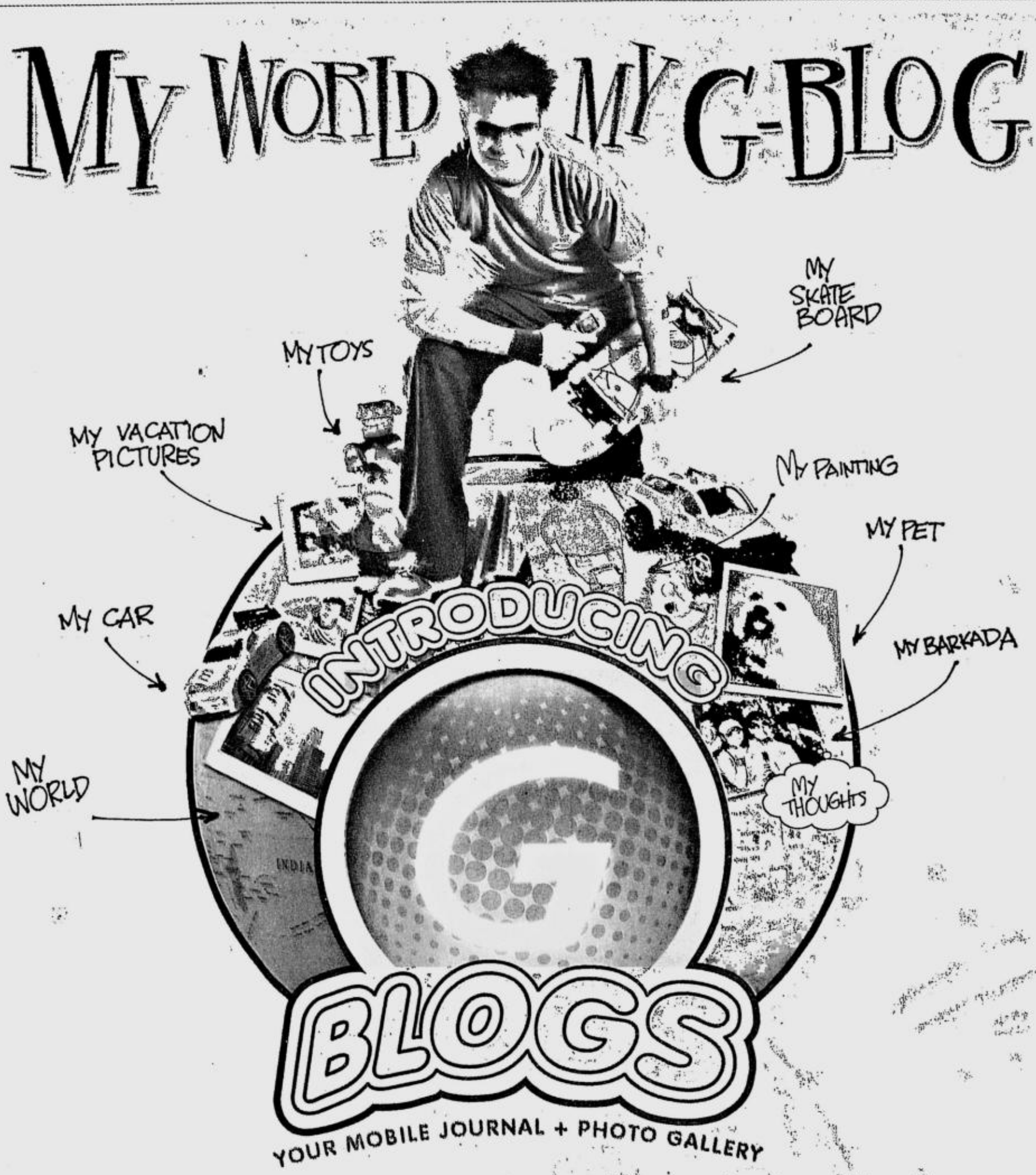

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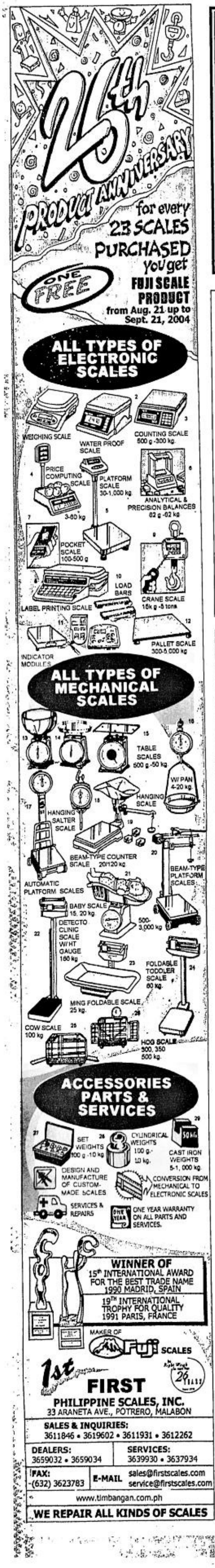

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Lakas, Kampi infighting worsens

By Carlito Pablo

THE INFIGHTING among administration parties in the House of Representatives has taken a turn for the worse.

Yesterday, the festering animosity between the camp led by the ruling Lakas-CMD of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino of Rep. Ronaldo Puno (Antipolo) degenerated into open war.

The Nationalist People's Coalition, a major ally of the Lakas-CMD, attacked Kampi, calling it a party of political hypocrites wanting to grab power in the House.

"Kampi's series of moves in the House are nothing but self-serving maneuvers, thinly veiled as a campaign for reforms," said Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso.

Veloso said that all Kampi wanted was to "capture House committee positions" which he said was "political hypocrisy of the worst order."

Puno fought back, assailing House leaders as "strongmen practicing the politics of convenience to suit their own narrow personal interests."

"It's typical of how they are running the Lower House," Puno said of the development.

On Thursday, Puno said Kampi was considering joining the opposition bloc in the House, using the maverick stance of former Vice President Teofisto Guingona as its model.

Guingona, who was almost always at odds with President Macapagal-Arroyo, was at one time Senate minority leader while belonging to the ruling Lakas-CMD.

The President chairs both the Kampi and Lakas-CMD.

The President's son, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo (Lakas, Pampanga), appealed to the contending administration parties to "work out an arrangement because the House cannot move forward."

With sore eyes, GMA goes on with her duties

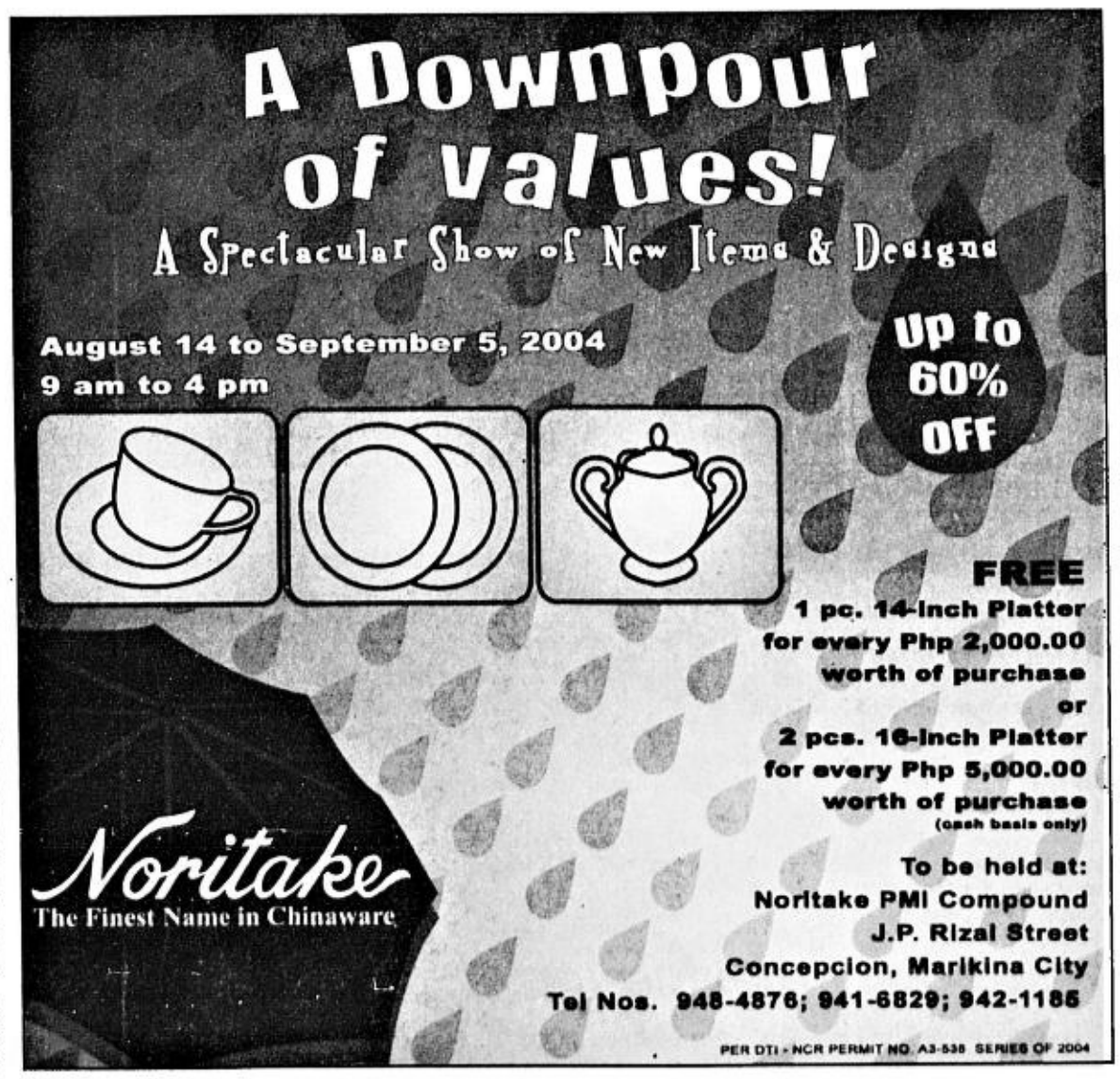
ALTHOUGH afflicted with sore eyes, President Macapagal-Arroyo went about her work yesterday administering the oath of office to about 50 government and police officials in Malacañang.

"That's what we know and last time when we came back from Cebu (on Thursday afternoon), she was wearing dark glasses," presidential spokesperson and incoming Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said when asked if the President was afflicted with sore eyes.

While holding office at the Malacañang extension office in Cebu on Thursday, Ms Arroyo wore dark glasses and kidded reporters to keep their distance.

"But she's up and about, she's performing her regular duties," Bunye said yesterday.

He said the mass oath-taking of some Cabinet appointees, and around 50 mayors and police officers, went as scheduled yesterday at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall. ***Juliet Labog-Javellana***



NEWSBRIEFS

Postpone barangay polls

DAVAO CITY—House Majority floor leader Rep. Prospero Nograles wants the postponement of the barangay elections scheduled next year, citing the country's huge budget deficit. Nograles said the barangay elections would require a huge amount that "the present economic situation cannot bear." In a statement, Nograles yesterday said the Commission on Elections would need at least P2 billion for the conduct of the elections. Regional polls for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao are scheduled in November but Mindanao solons, including Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong, wanted it held late next year. Nograles said President Macapagal-Arroyo has given the green light to his proposal to postpone the barangay elections. ***Anthony S. Alladа, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Nemeño to meet fiancee

THE fiancee of former New People's Army captive Pfc. Ronel Nemeno will finally get the chance to see him in a much-delayed reunion today. Irene Agno, 17, will fly from Camarines Sur to visit her boyfriend at the Fort Bonifacio hospital in Makati this morning, Nemeño's older brother Mariano told the INQUIRER yesterday. Nemeño was supposed to marry Agno in late March. But he and Army Lt. Ronaldo Fidelino were captured by communist guerrillas during an encounter. Agno was too poor to even finance her trip to Manila. Nobody from the government apparently bothered to check on her. Agno's trip was made possible only after the Camarines Sur governor agreed to buy her tickets, said Dante Jimenez whose Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption provided assistance to the captive's families. ***Christian V. Esguerra***

RP, Australia hold joint naval exercises

TWO Australian navy ships opened a 10-day maritime surveillance exercise with the Philippine navy on Friday off Palawan, despite a diplomatic spat last month triggered by Manila's early withdrawal of peacekeepers from Iraq.

The annual exercise, dubbed "PN-RAN Exercise Lumbas 2004," aims to "enhance interoperability and operational readiness" of both navies, the Philippine navy said in a statement.

Canberra harshly criticized the withdrawal of a small contingent of Filipino troops from Iraq to save the life of a kidnapped Filipino driver.

Philippine navy spokesman Capt. Geronimo Malabanan said more than 100 Filipino sailors, including a special warfare SEAL team, two navy ships and an aircraft were taking part in the drills.

The Australian Embassy said there were about 60 Australian sailors aboard the two patrol ships, the HMAS Dubbo and Geraldton.

Militant groups immediately protested the joint RP-Australia military exercises and branded the Arroyo administration as "marshmallow" soft after all.

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said the joint naval war games in Palawan only showed that the government "will never pull out from the master-slave relationship" with the US and its allies like Australia. *AP*

Ermita wants anti-terror body retained

By Alcuin Papa

OUTGOING Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday proposed the retention of the Anti-Terrorism Task Force to boost the country's efforts to fight global terrorism.

Ermita, who will be replaced by former presidential chief legal counsel Avelino Cruz Jr., said he will recommend the retention of the ATTF to the new defense chief.

"At this stage, we recommend the retention of the ATTF. We have seen that it has been effective. With the creation of the task force, many agencies of government that are working on the fight against terrorism are coordinating their efforts," Ermita told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

The ATTF, created by President Macapagal- Arroyo last March 28, is tasked to coordinate anti-terrorism efforts of various government and law agencies like the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, the Philippine Coast Guard, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Aviation Support Group, and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency.

ERMITA

The head of the defense department is automatically the head and overall coordinator of the ATTF.

"Now can you imagine if there was no overall coordinator, they (various agencies) do their own thing to a point of competing with each other and in the end not accomplish anything. But because there is a task force, we meet continuously especially where there is new information," Ermita said.

As soon as he becomes Executive Secretary, Ermita said he would talk to Mrs. Arroyo about the retention of the ATTF to be headed by Cruz. "Maybe it would be better that the secretary of defense continues to be the national coordinator (of the ATTF)."

He added that if the threat of global terrorism is reduced significantly, then the task force might be dissolved later. But for now, Ermita said the ATTF should be allowed to exists.

"This is one of the main contributions we have in the fight against international terrorism. It so happens that the Jemaah Islamiyah and the Al-Qaida have cells in the Philippines. Other countries have recognized that our efforts have been effective," Ermita said.

Since its creation, the ATTF has arrested some members of the Abu Sayyaf group in Metro Manila.

The ASG is believed to have links to the JI, an Indonesia-based terror group with links to Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The ATTF was also instrumental in the arrest of two locals in Mindanao who had served as conduits of funds from the Al-Qaida and JI to the ASG.

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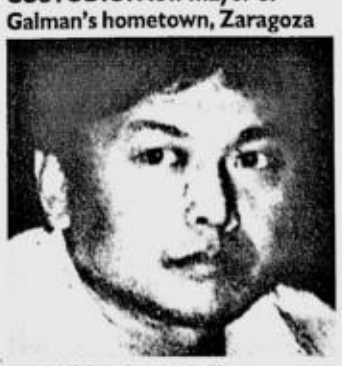
POWERED BY SMART

4 men who held key to the murders

CUSTODIO: Now mayor of Galman's hometown, Zaragoza

OCHOCO: Retired in California with his children.



GOSUICO: Lone civilian principal suspect now dead

VALERIO: Reportedly now a commercial pilot based in Seattle

From page A1

Aquino 21 years ago to this day.

One of them, former Philippine Constabulary (PC) Maj. Gen. Romeo Gatan, has died of a heart ailment. Death also claimed businessman Hermilo "Boy" Gosuico a few years ago.

The third, former Air Force Col. Romeo Ochoco, stayed in the service even after the 1986 revolution that ousted Ferdinand Marcos and was appointed Philippine Air Force inspector-general before going on optional retirement.

Shortly before the Sandiganbayan convicted 16 soldiers for the killing of Aquino and alleged assassin Rolando Galman, Ochoco left for the United States and is reportedly now living in California with his children.

The fourth, former Air Force Capt. Felipe Valerio, was the team leader of a 10-man unit assigned to secure Aquino once he stepped on the tarmac upon his return from US exile.

Valerio also left for the United States after the 1986 "people power" revolt and, his former classmates said, is staying in Seattle, Washington, working as a pilot at a local airline.

Gatan and Ochoco were never charged, while Valerio left the country before he could be tried.

Gosuico was charged as one of 26 principal suspects but was acquitted in the Sandiganbayan retrial of the double murder case during the Cory Aquino administration.

Four presidents and two "people power" revolts after Aquino was felled by an assassin's bullet on Aug. 21, 1983, the main conspirators in the murder and cover-up, including the mastermind, have remained unknown.

This, despite the new leads first given to the INQUIRER in 1995 by Air Force MSgt. Pablo Martinez that a retired PC general and a millionaire-contractor were the ones who entrusted him with custody of the supposed assassin, Rolando Galman, who was himself gunned down in that airport plot.

Conspirators

Martinez claimed that Gatan and Gosuico, both of whom were known to be closely identified with business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, were deeply involved with the Aquino slay plot and should have been investigated.

Martinez tagged Ochoco, then vice commander of the Aviation Security Command (Avsecom) and a known protégé of then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian Ver, as one of the alleged conspirators.

Ver, himself, is also now dead.

Martinez made the statements to the INQUIRER in February 1995 in his first-ever interview with a media outfit since he and 15 others were sentenced to two life sentences at the New Bilibid Prisons for the Aquino-Galman double murder.

Highly compartmentalized

Martinez's account of his participation in the slay plot was a classic case of a highly compartmentalized operation—what he knew was limited only to his being the "handler" of Galman. The master sergeant insists it was Galman who pulled the trigger on the former senator, disputing official findings that the gunman was a soldier.

According to Martinez, he and Galman were briefed on the assassination plot at the Carlston Hotel on the eve of the murder. He alleged that present during the briefing were Gatan, Ochoco and Gosuico.

Corroboration

The specific instruction given to Martinez allegedly by Gatan was to shoot Aquino and Galman should the latter fail to carry out his order to kill the opposition leader.

Martinez's exposé was corroborated by Air Force M/Sgt. Franklin Maniego.

It was Maniego who fetched Martinez from his house in Villamor Air Base in the afternoon of Aug. 19. 1983—two days before the killings—supposedly on Ochoco's orders. Maniego was the personal driver of Ochoco at that time.

Maniego, in a separate interview with the INQUIRER, also confirmed that on the night of Aug. 20, he drove Martinez and Galman on the runway of Villamor Air Base, where the tandem fired a few shots to familiarize themselves with the firearms allegedly given them by Ochoco after the briefing.

How Galman got to tarmac

Martinez's disclosure, plus Maniego's corroborative statement, solved the mystery of how Galman was able to penetrate the security cordon of nearly 2,000 soldiers set up on the tarmac of the Manila International Airport.

Ochoco was a known protégé of the late General Ver and was, in fact, the Southern Tagalog regional director of the National Intelligence and Security Agency, the forerunner of Nica (National Intelligence Coordinating Agency).

Martinez had known Ochoco since 1967 when Ochoco, then a captain, took him under his wing as an intelligence operative. In 1981, Martinez was asked by Ochoco to join him at the Avsecom and became the unit's first sergeant.

Military sources who knew Ochoco from way back confirm his closeness to Ver, then concurrent AFP chief and director general of the powerful Nisa.

PC officers said Gatan was the fair-haired boy of Cojuangco, who was instrumental in his appointment as commanding general of the 1st PC Zone from 1976-1978. The 1st PC Zone had jurisdiction over all the provinces north of Metro Manila, including Tarlac, Danding's home province, and Nueva Ecija, home province of Gosuico and Galman.

"In fact, it was Danding Cojuangco, through the lobbying of Gatan, who financed the construction of several buildings inside Camp Olivas in Pampanga, which served as the headquarters of the 1st PC Zone," a former PC officer said.

Gatan rose to prominence after his intelligence operatives, led by then PC Capt. Arturo Lomibao, captured New Peoples Army chieftain Bernabe Buscayno, alias Kumander Dante, in Mexico, Pampanga, in August 1976.

Dante's capture inspired former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr., then a full-time actor, to make a movie on the life of Gatan.

After his stint at the 1st PC Zone, Gatan was designated commanding general of the AFP Northern Luzon Command and, after his retirement from service, was appointed by Marcos as OIC governor of his home province of Cagayan.

Before he died, Gatan was involved in real estate and was known to have built a subdivision along the national highway in Cabanatuan City.

Gosuico was also engaged in real estate and in the heavy equipment and construction business.

Three women vanish

During the Agrava fact-finding board's inquiry, Gosuico was identified by Galman's son, Reynaldo and stepdaughter, Roberta Masibay, as one of the two persons who took away Galman's wife Lina Lazaro, Roberta's mother, on Jan. 29, 1984.

Lina Lazaro was never seen again.

Months earlier, on Sept. 4, 1983, Anna Oliva, a girlfriend of Galman working as a receptionist at the Del Monte Supper Club in Caloocan City, and her sister Catherine were also kidnapped by men armed with handheld radios.

The Oliva sisters were identified by Martinez as the two women who visited Galman in Carlston Hotel on the morning of the day Aquino was killed.

They were also never seen alive again.

During the retrial of the double murder case in 1988, the remains of the Oliva sisters were exhumed from a sugarcane field in Barangay Patling, Capas, Tarlac.

Were the women salvaged to erase whatever traces Galman might have left which could lead to the principal conspirators?

Reynaldo and Roberta Masibay also pointed to Gosuico and PAF Col. Arthur Custodio as among the four persons who fetched Galman from their house in San Miguel, Bulacan, on the evening of Aug. 17, 1983—four days before Aquino was shot.

Valerio's role

Custodio, who hails from Zaragoza town in Nueva Ecija, like Galman, was re-elected mayor of Zaragoza during the May 10 elections.

The statements of Reynaldo Galman and Roberta Masibay were corroborative of the revelation Martinez was to make 11 years later.

Valerio, then commander of the Avsecom's 805th Special Operations Squadron, headed Team Alpha which was to guard Aquino once he touched ground.

As leader of Team Alpha, Valerio never got out of the SWAT van even after Aquino and Galman lay dead on the tarmac.

T/Sgt. Ruben Cantimbuhan, driver of the SWAT van, confirmed that Valerio was just sitting beside him, listening to his handheld radio, as if getting instructions.

It was also Valerio who ordered his Team Alpha to ignore Martinez should they see him on the tarmac.

Valerio also instructed Cantimbuhan to proceed to the Philippine Army's Military Security Unit (MSU) headquarters, instead of bringing Aquino to the Fort Bonifacio hospital for medical treatment.

The MSU, the Army's counter-intelligence arm, was concurrently headed at the time by Maj. Gen. Josephus Ramas, who was closely identified with Ver.

A legend

Valerio was some sort of a legend in the Air Force for his daredevil stunts while flying Vietnam War-vintage Huey choppers.

In 1978, while flying his chopper with his girlfriend, Valerio met with an accident when he tried to fly below a bridge in Nueva Vizcaya. His girlfriend died in the accident.

A year later, Valerio met another chopper accident in Samar while flying with another girlfriend. He and his girlfriend survived.

Military sources said that, at the time of the Aquino assassination, Valerio was more identified with retired Col. Noli Espejo, then chief of staff of Avsecom and coach of the wrestling team, which included Valerio.

Impetus to new probe

The appointment of Rep. Raul Gonzalez as new justice secretary could provide an impetus to a re-investigation of the double murder case.

Gonzalez was a special prosecutor in the case until he was suspended by the Supreme Court in 1989 in connection with another case.

Gonzalez has said he could have unmasked and indicted the mastermind, whom he described as a "powerful figure."

Gonzalez, in an interview with the INQUIRER in August 1995, said that the government could have won more convictions had then President Corazon Aquino "showed as much enthusiasm and interest in her husband's murder trial as in her libel case against the late Luis Beltran."

CAPT. Romeo Bautista, T/Sgt. Claro Lat, M/Sgt. Pablo Martinez and Sgt. Rodolfo Desolong with the head of the Public Attorney's Office Persida Acosta. ERIK ARAZAS

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LACSON, Carlos Miguel M.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Ateneo de Manila University
PUNSALAN, Mary Ann A.	BS Management Economics	Ateneo de Manila University
REYES, Jenina Marie D.	BS Statistics	De La Salle University
ROGEL, Edward Andrew P.	BS Management Engineering	Ateneo de Manila University
ROLLAN, Rhett Albert A.	BS Mathematics	University of the Philippines – Diliman
YAP, David B.	BS Statistics	University of the Philippines – Diliman

NORTH LUZON (5 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
BAGA, Aprian Marvin B.	BS Economics	University of the Philippines – Diliman
CARANDANG, Phrances Xharmagne C.	BS Information Technology	St. Louis University
CARANGUIAN, Luther Paul	DR. BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman
GARRIDO, Jerwin Demy E.	AB Mass Communications	University of the Philippines – Diliman
VELASQUEZ, Mon Ruiz S.	BS Electrical Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman

CENTRAL LUZON (4 SLOTS)

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CAGUIMBAL, Emmanuel V.	BS Mechanical Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman
LEAL, Dan Rowen R.	BS Civil Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman
UMALI, Paolo Dominict E.	BS Applied Mathematics	University of the Philippines – Los Baños

SOUTH LUZON (4 SLOTS)

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JAIM, Mark Erben A.	BS Electrical Engineering	University of the Philippines – Los Baños
JOVEN, Rafael Francisco LL.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Ateneo de Naga

WESTERN VISAYAS (3 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
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BAYAG, Ed Angelo C.	BS Applied Mathematics	University of the Philippines – Visayas
ESCLETO, Ceasar Ean S.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Mapua

EASTERN VISAYAS (4 SLOTS)

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BITOON, Criscelle Ann A.	BS Accountancy	University of San Carlos
PALGAN, Mae Emmeline	AB Mass Communications	University of the Philippines – Diliman
PO, Nenette Marie M.	BS Statistics	University of the Philippines – Visayas
TUTOR, Kristoffer T.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	University of San Carlos

DAVAO (4 SLOTS)

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ALLERA, Aril Jay E.	BS Accountancy	Ateneo de Davao
DATUKON, Norman Farrish A.	BS Accountancy	Ateneo de Davao
DINOPOL, Christine E.	BS Information Technology	Mindanao State University
LIPAE, Alexander Ian Y.	BS Civil Engineering	University of the Philippines – Los Baños

CAGAYAN DE ORO (3 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
JULIAN, Sebastian III D.	BS Computer Science	University of the Philippines – Dilima
MONARCA, Jeosid Dave L.	BS Accountancy	Xavier University
ROMUALDO, Kate Russel S.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Mindanao Polytechnic State College

ZAMBOANGA (2 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
AJERO, John Primer P.	BS Accountancy	Silliman University
JARON, Joe Darryl L.	BS Accountancy	Ateneo de Zamboanga

(PDI – August 1, 2, 7-9, 14-16, 21-23 & 28-30, 2004)

Ted Kennedy mistaken for terrorist 5 times

From page A1

dinary citizens mistakenly placed on terrorist watch lists.

Then, to the astonishment of the crowd attending a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Thursday, Kennedy offered himself up as Exhibit A.

Between March 1 and April 6, airline agents tried to block Kennedy from boarding airplanes on five occasions because his name resembled an alias used by a suspected terrorist who had been barred from flying on airlines in the United States, his aides and government officials said.

Instead of acknowledging the craggy-faced, silver-haired septuagenarian as the congressional leader whose face has flashed across the nation's television sets for decades, the airline agents acted as if they had stumbled across a fanatic who might blow up an American airplane. Kennedy said they refused to give him his ticket.

"He said, 'We can't give it to you,'" Kennedy said, describing an encounter with an airline agent to the rapt audience. "'You can't buy a ticket to go on the airline to Boston.' I said, 'Well, why not?' He said, 'We can't tell you.'"

"Tried to get on a plane back to Washington," Kennedy continued. "'You can't get on the plane.' I went up to the desk and said, 'I've been getting on this plane, you know, for 42 years. Why can't I get on the plane?'"

The Senate chamber erupted in laughter.

KENNEDY

Dizzying odyssey

Kennedy said his situation highlighted the dizzying odyssey encountered by people whose names had mistakenly appeared on terrorist watch lists or resembled the names of suspected terrorists on such lists.

In April, the American Civil Liberties Union sued the government in San Francisco and Seattle on behalf of seven airline passengers who said they had wrongly been placed on no-fly lists or associated with names on no-fly lists and could not find a way to clarify their identities.

Lawyers for the ACLU said they did not know how many people had been mistakenly placed on watch lists. But they said the sluggish responses from the airline and the government to Kennedy's efforts to clear his name demonstrated the absurdity of the no-fly system.

Apology

A top Homeland Security official has apologized to Kennedy.

"If they have that kind of difficulty with a member of Congress, how in the world are average Americans, who are getting caught up in this thing, how are they going to be treated fairly and not have their rights abused?" Kennedy asked Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson.

Hutchinson, who apologized for "any inconvenience" to the senator, testified Thursday before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the need for the federal government to take over the watch lists, which are currently administered by the airlines.

Watch list

Each time, a supervisor recognized Kennedy and got him on the flight. But after the third incident, Kennedy's staff called the Transportation Security Administration and asked to clear up the confusion.

The TSA said a name similar to Kennedy's was on the watch list, and that he was later flagged to go through additional screening. TSA also said that the airlines didn't handle the matter properly.

But twice after contacting TSA, Kennedy was stopped again at the airline counter.

Hutchinson said that people who experience problems can call the TSA ombudsman to clear things up. *New York Times News Service with an AP report*

Please don't quit, minority asks Nene

From page A1

province, expressed hope that the minority would be able to resolve the matter when the bloc meets on Monday. He also said that Pimentel's move to take a different view from the rest of the minority was "not a big issue."

On the other hand, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada declined to confirm if he also got a text message from Pimentel.

"If Nene will resign, we will try to convince him to stay," Estrada said, stressing that Pimentel should stay on as minority leader.

He added that his mother, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada, felt the same way.

Neither Lacson nor Estrada is taking it against Pimentel for his vote supporting the amendment of the legislative agenda of Congress.

Estrada, however, pointed out that he should have been consulted about the proposal.

Not consulted

An INQUIRER source earlier said that Pimentel had brought up the proposal to amend the calendar of Congress during last Monday's minority caucus. He reportedly told members that he has accepted the amendments on behalf of the minority.

But Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile stood up to object to the proposed amendments.

Unfortunately, the source said the minority was not able to resolve the matter because session was set to begin and the meeting had to end.

With a vote of 13-7, the Senate approved on Wednesday the proposal to have the congressional sessions from July 25 to Sept. 24, and then adjourn for a month.

Sessions would resume on Oct. 17, and again adjourn on Dec. 17 for the holidays.

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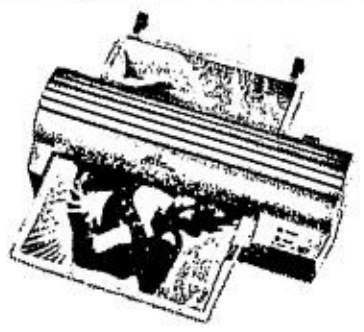

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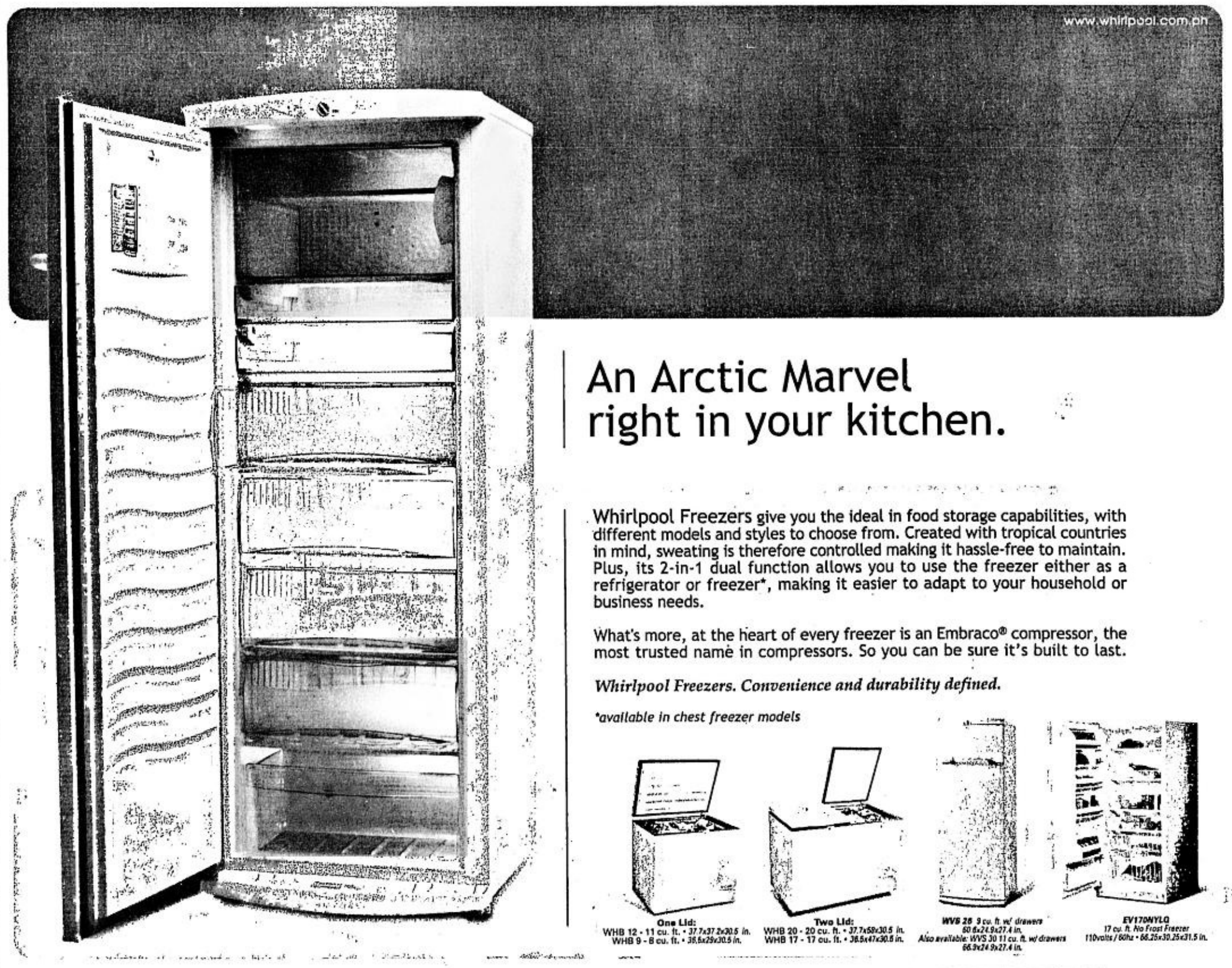

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US warplanes hit Najaf; Sadr orders militia to continue fight

NAJAF, Iraq—Radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr urged his Mehdi Army to continue fighting US and Iraqi government forces Friday after the militia holding out in Najaf's shrine area were pounded by the heaviest bombardment yet in the 16-day standoff.

The militia leader's defiant call, delivered as usual via a spokesperson, followed a letter circulated late Thursday in which he refused to disarm in the wake of a "final warning" to do so from Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi.

At the same time, spokesperson Sheikh Ahmed al-Shaibani said the militia was prepared to hand over control of the Imam Ali mausoleum in the heart of Najaf to the highest Shiite religious authority in Iraq, but there was a catch.

"Moqtada Sadr has asked his fighters to continue the fight," Shaibani said at the shrine, one of the holiest Shiite pilgrimage sites in the world, which was taken over by the cleric's forces on April 5 after Sadr began his rebellion.

"The Mehdi Army is ready to leave the mausoleum and hand over the keys to the leaders of the Marjaiya, Ali Sistani and Kazem al-Haeri, but unfortunately they are not here," said Shaibani.

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the spiritual leader of Iraq's majority Shiite population, is in London following hospital treatment, while Haeri is based in the Iranian holy city of Qom.

Deafening explosions engulfed central Najaf after nightfall, as guns fired, US helicopters and warplanes screeched overhead and smoke filled the sky above the Old City, at the heart of which lies the Imam Ali shrine.

An AFP correspondent said the bombardment was the heaviest since the fighting began on Aug. 5 after the collapse of an earlier truce.

But by the time dawn broke Najaf was eerily quiet and not a single gunshot was heard in the city, where some 3,000 US and Iraqi government troops are facing some 1,000 militia.

Repeating the contents of Sadr's alleged Thursday letter, Shaibani said the Mehdi Army would not be disarmed "because we don't have the right to do so." "This is the army of Imam Mehdi," he said, referring to the so-called 12th imam, who Shiites believe one day will return to this world.

The spokesperson dismissed Allawi's call Thursday for the militiamen to disarm, quit the shrine and enter mainstream politics or face military defeat, saying the threats were dictated by US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and a "government ordered by the Americans."

In the main southern city of Basra Friday, the British military said the number of security guards around key oil infrastructure had been stepped up after the Mehdi Army torched the offices and warehouses of the South Oil Co.

"The fire at the South Oil Co. has been dealt with and there is no effect on oil production. The number of security guards around the oil infrastructure has also been increased," a spokesperson said.

The fire was extinguished by Iraqi firemen, she said. British military spokespersons insisted that the number of sporadic small arms fire and erratic mortar attacks were less than in recent weeks. *AFP*

SUPPORTERS of radical Iraqi Shiite leader Moqtada Sadr chant inside Najaf's Imam Ali shrine Aug. 19. Sadr reverted to his trademark defiance after two days in which he had appeared to be willing to disarm his militia and leave Iraq's holiest Shiite shrine. REUTERS

Iran says it can make nuke arms in 3 years

WASHINGTON—Iran has informed British, French and German officials it could produce weapons-grade uranium within a year and a nuclear weapon no more than three years after that, Undersecretary of State John R. Bolton said Thursday.

"These Iranian assertions give the lie to their public contention that their nuclear program is entirely civil and peaceful in purpose," Bolton said in an interview.

Bolton, who plays a leading role in US efforts to contain the spread of nuclear and other dangerous weapons, said Iran was making veiled threats in an effort to head off UN consideration of sanctions or other forms of punishment.

The United States is expected to request UN Security Council action if the International Atomic Energy Agency condemns Iraq at a board of governors meeting Sept. 13 in Vienna.

Bolton said the administration was consulting with British, French and German officials, as well as with Russia, Japan and other governments, in preparation for the IAEA meeting.

Meanwhile, at a news conference, US national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, said the Europeans were providing "very good cooperation" on Iran. *AP*

US casinos cashing in on poker frenzy

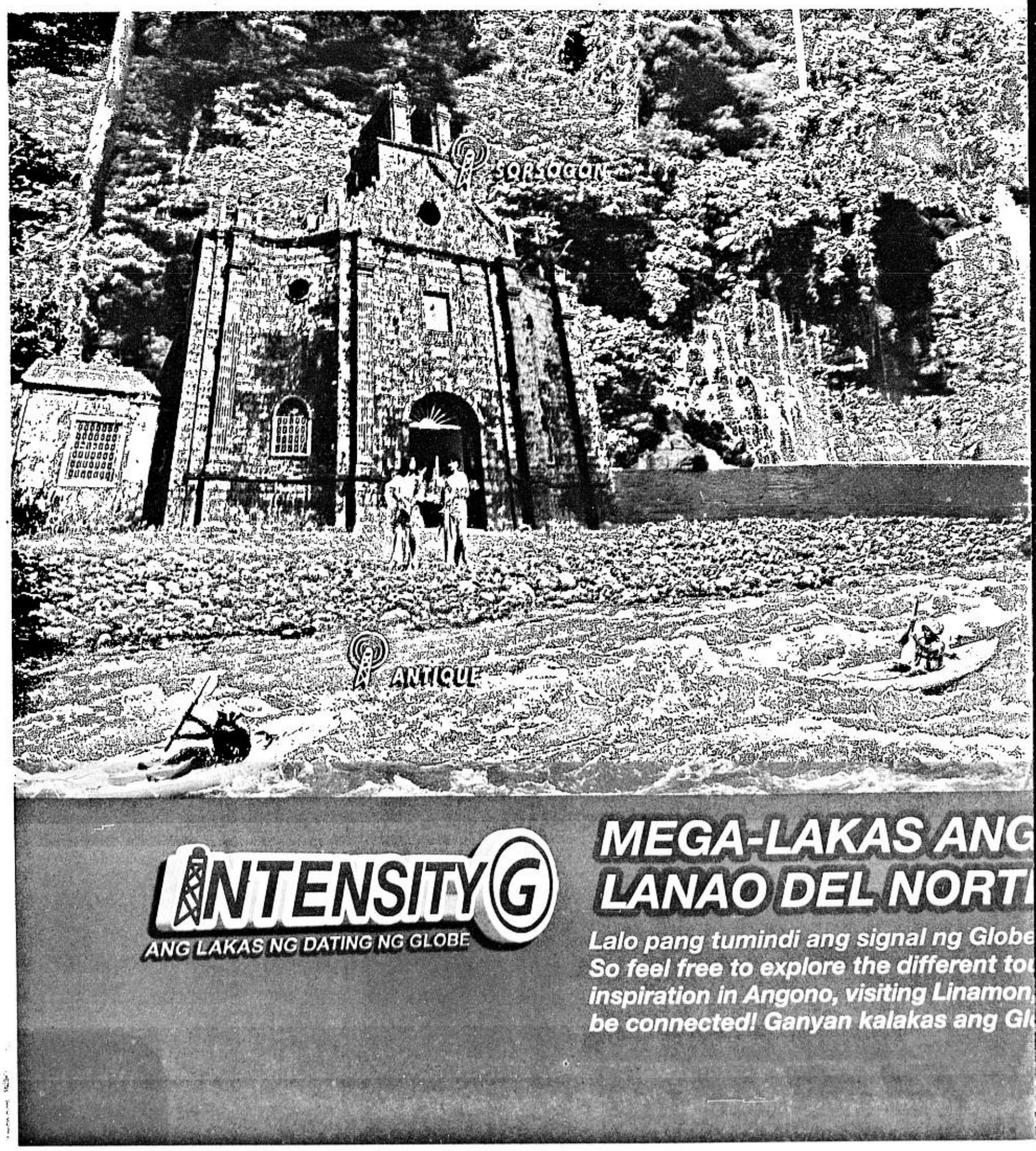
KANSAS CITY, Missouri—A few years ago, casinos across the United States were closing their poker rooms to make space for more popular and lucrative slot machines.

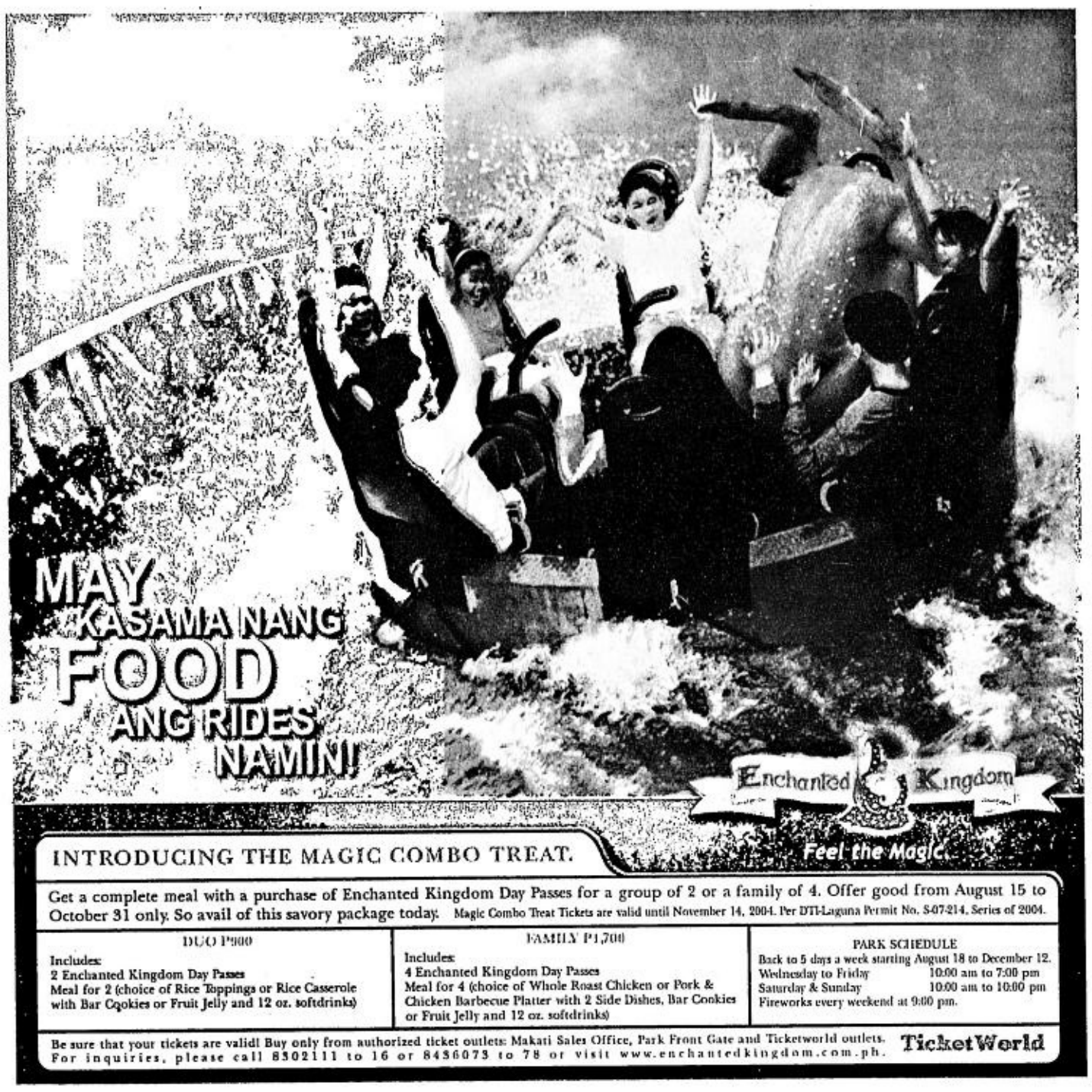
But the improbable triumph in 2003 of a 27-year-old accountant from Tennessee who beat some of the world's greatest professional players on national television has sent the nation into a poker frenzy—and casinos looking to cash in have been quick on the draw.

Anybody who watches ESPN probably already knows the story: A man named Chris Moneymaker wins a $40 Texas Hold 'Em poker tournament on the Internet, qualifies to play in the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas, then outlasts a colorful cast of characters to win $2.5 million.

"When the World Poker Tour got into television and used technology to show the hole cards, it sparked enormous interest in poker," said Gary Thompson, spokesperson for Harrah's Entertainment in Las Vegas. "Americans are very competitive people. You can't compete with Tiger Woods on a golf course, or a heavyweight boxer in the ring, but you can compete at a poker table and knock out a world champion."

Harrah's rode the wave of popularity, buying Binion's Horseshoe Casino in Las Vegas earlier this year, and with it, the rights to the World Series of Poker. Thompson said Harrah's, which owns 28 casinos nationwide, recently opened poker rooms at three of its Midwestern casinos. It plans to adds four more at other casinos. *AP*





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Oil prices hit new highs, near $50

LONDON—Crude oil prices passed US$49 per barrel on Friday, striking fresh record levels amid heightened concern about supplies in Iraq, and doubts over how much extra crude could be pumped anytime soon to ease the price surge.

The spike brought prices close to the psychologically important US$50 threshold.

US light crude for September delivery peaked at $49.29 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, a new intraday record high. That later fell to $49.20, 50 cents above Thursday's closing price of $48.70, which was the highest Nymex settlement on record.

When adjusted for inflation, oil is roughly $8 less per barrel than it was leading up to the first Gulf War.

On London's International Petroleum Exchange, Brent crude futures for October delivery also soared to a new intraday record high of $45.15, before falling to $45.06.

Market watchers said some investors had started to whisper about the possibility of a $60 barrel, even as the head of producers' cartel Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries made soothing-but-vague comments about "a significant outcome" from its next members' meeting in September.

"$50 is, I would say, a foregone conclusion," said Esa Ramasamy, editorial manager for oil in Asia at Platts, the energy market analysts. "Now the market is thinking $60, possibly."

The September futures contract—essentially a bet about where crude prices would be in that month—was due to expire later Friday.

Opec President Purnomo Yusgiantoro said Friday in Jakarta: "I expect there will be a significant outcome from the meeting to overcome this big problem (of rising oil prices)."

Similar comments from Opec officials have so far failed to halt the energy market's record-breaking run as investors suspect tight supplies and possible disruption are currently more powerful factors than loose assurances from the cartel.

Opec accounts for a third of global supply, but around half the oil exported worldwide. Its ministers are set to gather in Vienna, Austria Sept. 15-16.

Purnomo, who is also Indonesia's energy minister, told reporters Opec will also meet with major non-Opec oil producers at the meeting. He didn't elaborate.

"The momentum of fear is running so hot now, everyone is waiting for something bad to happen," said Ng Weng Hoong, editor at EnergyAsia.com in Singapore.

Market-watchers said concern was still focused on the showdown in Iraq between radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and coalition forces in the holy city of Najaf, a confrontation that has already lasted two weeks.

The militia has repeatedly threatened to target Iraq's vulnerable oil infrastructure, especially the Gulf state's pipeline network, accentuating market fears about tight global supplies. *AP*

Bird flu virus now in pigs

BEIJING—China announced Friday it had made the first ever discovery of a deadly strain of bird flu in pigs, a development that could have ominous implications for efforts to restrict the disease's spread to humans.

Scientists discovered the lethal H5N1 virus in pigs tested in 2003 and again in others this year, China National Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory director Chen Hualan told a conference.

"A very important point is that in 2003 and 2004 we started finding this virus in pigs in different areas in China," Chen said during a presentation at the International Symposium on the Prevention and Control of SARS and Avian Flu.

"This is a rather dangerous signal in terms of public health."

Chen later told journalists the H5N1 virus was found in pigs in southeast China's Fujian province in 2003 and in "another place" in 2004, but only in one farm.

"It is not just the first time it has been found in China but in the world," Chen said.

Thailand, Vietnam and China have all recently reported new cases of bird flu in poultry following outbreaks of the H5N1 virus earlier this year that led to the culling of millions of birds.

Earlier this week Malaysia reported an outbreak.

Bird flu has killed 27 people across Asia this year.

Up until now the virus has been found only in poultry, and while it was suspected to be carried by swine no cases in pigs had been officially reported, a UN Food and Agriculture Organization official in Bangkok said. *AFP*

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OPINION

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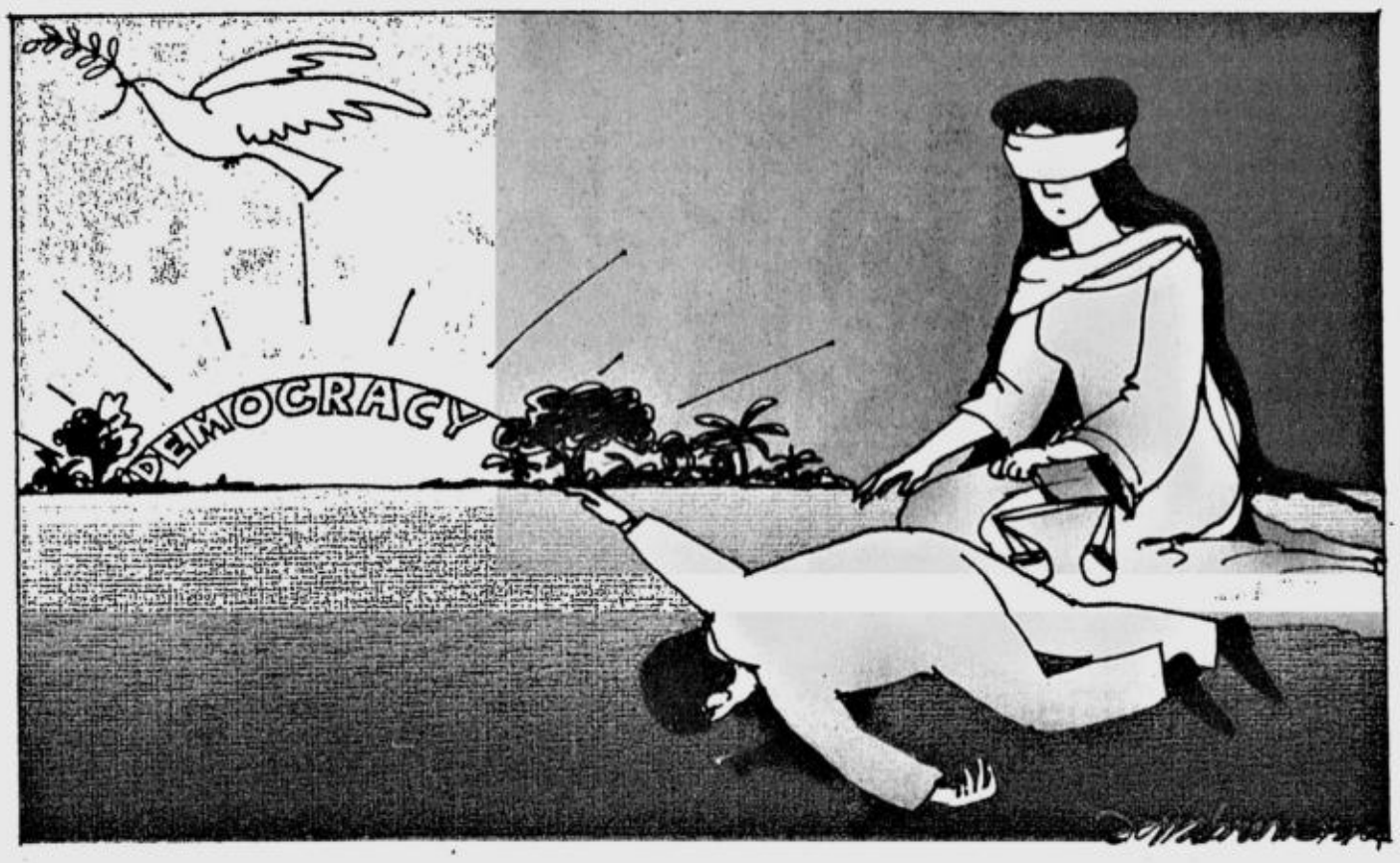

Low road

FROM THE TIME she was proclaimed the winner of the 2004 elections, President Macapagal-Arroyo has deliberately resisted any pressure to make dramatic moves early in her term. She defiantly told the press she would not be subject to the usual first 100 days countdown. And she avoided doing anything that would give the impression she was eager to make a grand statement with a Cabinet revamp.

EDITORIAL

Obviously the President embarked on this course of action—or more accurately, non-action—to stave off the frantic jockeying and lobbying for favors after the elections, and because she wanted to maintain the rhythm of her government, without having things accelerated to suit the momentum others wanted to see develop. The result, however, has been a government that seems overly fatigued by the exertions required to reach the May 2004 finish line. Instead of getting a second wind from its victory, it now seems to lack the energy to rouse itself and the people toward achieving a vision for the future.

There is no greater indication of this than the new Cabinet reshuffle announced last Wednesday. It's the same old faces doing new jobs, and what is worse, with no old face apparently being put in a new position where the old face can achieve surprising new things. Instead, the President's reason in initiating this new round of musical chairs seems to be political patronage and nothing else.

It is surely no coincidence that among the new Cabinet appointments are two ex-congressmen who studiously ignored a suggestion made by one of their colleagues during the canvassing that no one participating in the congressional proceedings should accept an appointment from the President after her victory. So we have former Representatives Raul Gonzalez and Florencio Abad, who were assiduous in facilitating the proclamation of the President being handed plum Cabinet positions. We have, for the rest, mostly old faces being shoved from one seat to another but still sitting around the same cabinet table. Except for some exceptions assigned to less prominent posts, such as Francisco Licuanan who was named presidential adviser for Clark-Subic development, there is nothing in the new order of things that sends a clear signal of meritocracy or statesmanship taking precedence over partisan interest.

Ms Arroyo has, from the moment she became President, exhibited a stubborn tendency to choose the low road even when everyone has been egging her to take the high road. Once again, she has decided to take the low road at a time when the country is almost on bended knees begging for a sign, any sign, that we have a President who is more concerned with future greatness than the fleeting concerns of the political here and now.

To say that the public is disappointed with the President's choices is to put it mildly. Public perception, gauging from instant polls and audience messages and calls to radio and television shows, reveals something worse than disappointment. The public seems to be increasingly indifferent to the President, viewing her as unrepentantly obsessed with protecting personal turf and gaining partisan advantage. In other words, the public is not just irritated, it is indifferent.

This means that so early on in her regular term, the President has frittered away her chance to mobilize the public for a national cause greater than herself, and reduced herself in the eyes of the public to the level of a moral pygmy. She risks a further hardening of the indifference of the public and its transformation into a passive, if not active, resistance to her leadership and the methods that have been used to maintain it.

Never has a President thrown away so much, so soon. She has passed up countless opportunities to prove her critics wrong and invigorate her supporters. Instead she has handed nearly everyone who already disliked her or was neutral about her, even greater reasons to despise her. The only thing going for her thus far has been that, Machiavellian and uninspiring though she may be, her opponents on the whole seem far worse.

But with her gift for bungling so many political opportunities, we wonder how many more chances she has left.

Arturo M. Tolentino

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

ONE of the great men of our race died the other week practically unnoticed by our people.

Worse, he was unhonored and unsung by the present generation, which could not remember the distinctive service he rendered the nation several decades ago. Arturo M. Tolentino was 93.

Even before he entered public life, the young Turing was already recognized for his academic excellence. He was a top scholar in the UP College of Law during the '30s and was a close rival with Ambrosio Padilla, another promising student, for intellectual attainments. The two would later also excel in public service.

Both were also sportsmen, Padilla in basketball and Tolentino as a weightlifter, "a parlor athlete," as Paddy called him. When they took the bar examinations in 1934, Turing placed second and Paddy third.

Tolentino assisted another bright young man, Wenceslao Vinzons, in organizing the Young Philippines, an idealistic political party that challenged the dominant Nacionalista Party under Manuel L. Quezon. Tolentino tested the electoral waters under this fledgling opposition group but hardly improved his political future.

Ever the practical politician, Tolentino joined the Nacionalista Party in hopes again of becoming congressman of our third district in Manila. My father was the recognized Nacionalista kingpin in Sampaloc at that time and could have won nomination hands down. But he declined in favor of Tolentino, who was thus launched into elective office at last.

In 1953, Speaker Jose B. Laurel Jr. chose Tolentino as the majority floor leader of the House of Representatives. From that position, he in time became a member of the Senate, where he was elected president when Ferdinand Marcos was already in Malacañang. Martial law would later abolish Congress but Tolentino would bounce back as a member of the Batasang Pambansa. He became, characteristically, an occasional critic of the dictatorship.

Tolentino also served as a member of the Code Commission that drafted the Civil Code of 1951, led the Philippine panel that participated in the drafting of the Jamaica Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982, and also sat for some time as foreign affairs secretary. Finally, he was the running-mate of Marcos in the snap election of 1986 that triggered Edsa I and the downfall of the tyranny.

Before public office demanded all of his time, Tolentino distinguished himself as a lawyer and law professor. He was generally recognized as a constitutionalist, but his forte was really civil law, which he taught and on which he wrote textbooks that are still prescribed in law schools today.

When my father died in 1965, Tolentino was one of the leading Nacionalistas who walked with my brothers and me to the cemetery. Another of my fond memories of him was of that time when he appeared as counsel for the petitioner at the oral argument in the case of Marcos v. Manglapus, which was held by the Supreme Court in chamber and not in the formal session hall.

When I arrived at the conference room, practically all of my colleagues were already seated and waiting for Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee. Tolentino was also there already at the other end of the conference table. Upon seeing him, I dropped my rollos at my place and immediately approached him to shake his hand. To my surprise, all the other justices rose together and one by one also went to greet Tolentino. All of them had initially hesitated to talk to him for fear of being considered unduly partial to one of the contending parties.

Considering his previous record, for which he received much appreciation from the enlightened segment of our citizenry, I cannot understand why he chose to side with Marcos and support his decidedly unconstitutional rule during the martial law period. Tolentino could not have sincerely believed that Marcos was acting legally when he installed himself as the absolute ruler of the land.

Tolentino's past record as a statesman and his strong adherence to the Rule of Law would have prevented him from justifying Marcos' authoritarian regime. Yet, he showed no reluctance in accepting the despot's offer to join his ticket in 1986 in yet another effort to perpetuate the dictatorship.

And as if this were not enough, Tolentino further disgraced himself after the Aquino administration was upheld by the new Supreme Court and recognized by the international community of nations. Like a parody of himself, he agreed to be used by the Marcos loyalists in acclaiming him in an absurd ceremony at the Manila Hotel as the legitimately elected Vice President of the Philippines.

That last act must have undone all his past achievements for the country to which he had dedicated his efforts and endowments for more than half a century. Reduced to an obscure memory during the last years of his life, he no longer savored the estimable recognition of the public for the brilliance of his mind that was his most impressive virtue.

To admirers like me, Arturo M. Tolentino was, with all his human imperfections, an outstanding public servant who deserves the nation's veneration. He stands head and shoulders above the simpletons in the present Senate, whom he would have scorned with the hauteur of the true intellectual.

Red flag

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

NINOY Aquino's death 21 years ago was the tipping point that transformed the isolated, and mostly discouraged, pockets of resistance against the Marcos regime into an epidemic of protest. Ordinary people paying their last respects to the slain hero realized that not only was Ninoy not alone in his fight, but even more important, that we were not alone in grief and revulsion. This reinforced our determination to act. We infected and reinfected each other with courage. Within three years, in what is arguably the Filipinos' finest moment in the last century, the People Power Revolt occurred, and inspired similar movements for freedom elsewhere. That this took place without text messages and under constraints of controlled media makes it all the more amazing. For this, we have Ninoy to remember with utmost gratitude.

His death hastened the collapse of the Philippine economy, caught in the throes of another epidemic: a global debt crisis that affected Latin America and Africa, with this country the only one in Asia. That collapse pushed back the country's growth by 20 years, and only recently have we been able to regain the real per capita income levels attained at the beginning of the 1980s.

It is ironic that 21 years after Ninoy Aquino's death, a similar debt crisis looms. Eleven economists (E. de Dios, B. Diokno, E. Esguerra, R. Fabella, S. Gochoco-Bautista, F. Medalla, S. Monsod, E. Pernia, R. Reside, G. Sicat, and E. Tan), all from the UP School of Economics writing in their individual capacities, have signed a report that waves a large red flag in our faces. Shades of the 1984 White Paper.

The message: There is a fiscal time bomb that will explode within the next three years unless concerted action is taken immediately. President Macapagal-Arroyo called it right: the deficit is "our most urgent problem." Just how urgent, what should be done, and the timetable to address it is what "The Deepening Crisis: The Real Score on Deficits and the Public Debt" is about.

First, the stylized facts on the debt and the deficit: The national government's debt is P3.36 trillion (as of end 2003), split almost equally between foreign and domestic and increasing by almost 2.5 times within six years (P1.35 trillion in 1997). This is equivalent to 78 percent of the country's GDP (up 50 percent in the same period). At the same time, the outstanding debt of the public sector (the Consolidated Public Sector Debt or CPSD) was running at 130 percent of GDP. The latter is mentioned because the national government (Executive) has a nasty habit of taking over some of that CPSD without even a by-your-leave from Congress.

Why should the debt matter? Because it means that any sudden increase in global interest rates would cause huge repayment difficulties. Plus, the higher the debt/GDP ratio, the more hesitant creditors and investors to lend or invest, which slows down growth, which increases the debt/GDP ratio, in a vicious cycle of self-fulfilling expectations. And, unless the deficit and debt problem is addressed (30 percent of government spending is on debt service), the administration's 10-point program is imperiled.

Significantly, the national government deficits contributed only 43 percent to the debt increase (due not to extravagant or wasteful expenditure but to greatly reduced tax/revenue effort). Almost as large a factor (37 percent) is the losses of government-run corporations and the equally disastrous policies of all previous administrations that have affected them. The remaining 20 percent is due mostly to exchange-rate changes. Thus, the critical state of public finances is due to the failure of the tax structure and bureaucracy, and the inefficiency and lack of accountability of public corporations.

How to stop (or reverse) the growth of the government debt in relation to GDP? The economists do little algebra, taking into account the rates of growth, domestic and foreign interest, currency depreciation, inflation, the existing debt-GDP ratio and the primary surplus (excess of revenue over spending, excluding interest payments). And they conclude that we need to raise revenues or cut costs amounting to 2.9 percent of GDP, in addition to the current primary surplus of 0.6 percent of GDP, for a total of 3.5 percent. This is one of their most important contributions to the issue: quantifying the problem.

They also examine, and reject, some fondly held beliefs: the country can outgrow the problem; spending cuts will do the trick; reforming tax administration will suffice; or even monetizing the deficit. Instead, they make specific recommendations to achieve that 3.5 percent of GDP increased revenues—limiting the servicing of off-budget liabilities, raising the primary surplus, raising revenues by closing tax loopholes, updating existing taxes, passing new revenue measures and re-allocating spending.

They emphasize that the timing of these measures is crucial, and so is the principle of equitable burden-sharing. Everybody takes a hit, but the leaders take the hit first. Congress will have to cut by half its pork barrel; LGUs must accept a three-year reduction in their IRA from 40 to 30 percent; tax loopholes/leakages (including sin tax indexation) must be plugged **before** new taxes are imposed. Immediate, short-run, and medium- and long-term actions are listed.

Only this kind of package stands a fair chance of success. Failing that, the predicted ordeal will occur.

We're all in this together. Be warned.

The bigger question: Are appointees competent?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

CRITICS continue to label the recycling of Cabinet members and other officials of the Arroyo administration as nothing more than "political payback." But there is nothing wrong with or strange about paying back political debts, which is a practice of leaders around the world. In the United States, for instance, some ambassadors get the job because of their contributions to a candidate's campaign. It's natural that leaders would rather appoint people who helped them win or whom they know well rather than those they never dealt with. The bigger—and more valid—question is whether the objects of "political payback" are qualified or competent.

* * *

There don't seem to be too many complaints about the new Cabinet appointees, except Cebu Rep. Ace Durano, who has no experience in tourism or any demonstrated managerial skills. Moreover, people say his constituents, who just voted him for a second term, would now be orphaned, which really doesn't make sense.

With regard to former Presidential Legal Adviser Avelino Cruz's appointment to the DND portfolio, I'm all for a "civilian" in that post as this may give a fresh approach to the problems affecting the AFP, the DND's biggest bureaucracy. Cruz is also on the right track when he promises to keep "The Firm" off-limits in his new territory. As for Rep. Butch Abad, the education department's union's conditions that there should be "no politicking" in that office and it should be professionally managed are most reasonable. He can't complain about them.

* * *

The nation today marks the 21st anniversary of the assassination of Filipino hero Ninoy Aquino with a Mass officiated by Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J., for Ninoy's family at his gravesite at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque at 10 a.m. His widow, former President Cory Aquino, is asking all Filipinos not to forget what Ninoy died for and to recommit themselves to helping one another and the country. Part of the commemoration was her appearance last Thursday on Deedee Siytangco's TV talk show, "Dee's Day" on RPN-9, where she interacted with volunteers from NGOs that the Benigno Aquino Jr. Foundation cited for their social development work. Cory was also interviewed by students Katrin Coo and Aiden Gonzales. Winners of the competition launched by Heherson and Cecile Alvarez for the best in original Ninoy Aquino essays and songs were also featured in "Dee's Day."

The commemorative gold and silver coins honoring Ninoy as the sixth in a collector's line of "Champions for Peace" are once again available through the "Spirit of Edsa" at the launch price. These coins, minted by the prestigious Meyer's Mint of Germany and released by Goldquest International, honor Ninoy for his aspirations for freedom and peace, which inspired his people to seek to attain democracy through non-violent means. Other "Champions" are John Paul II, Mahatma Gandhi, Princess Diana, John F. Kennedy and Blessed Mother Teresa.

* * *

On the diplomatic front: Mexico is so much a part of Philippine cultural and economic history that when a group of us in the media, including National Artist for Literature Alejandro Roces, was recently invited by Mexican Ambassador Enrique Hubbard to lunch at his residence, we readily responded. He served a typical Mexican cuisine not normally found in American-influenced "Chicano" restaurants, made more delectable by Anding Roces' inimitable repertoire of stories about RP-Mexican relations. Hubbard informed us about a number of events that should enhance these relations starting next month, such as the inauguration of the Mexican Food Festival at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and the joint celebration of the National Day of Mexico and other Central American countries at the Hotel Inter-continental on Sept. 12. Then there are the forthcoming visits of two Mexican delegations to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the sisterhood agreement between the historic city of Acapulco and Manila, and the signing of a similar agreement between San Pedro Garza Garcia and Makati City.

* * *

Topping the list of exciting events from the Mexican Embassy will be a concert by well-known Mexican pianist Alberto Cruzprieto on Nov. 21 at the Intercontinental, to celebrate the 440th anniversary of the historic "round trip" from Mexico to Manila and back, by conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legazpi. On Nov. 21, 1564, Legazpi set sail from Barra de Navidad in Mexico with his nephew, Juan de Salcedo, and Agustinian friar Andres de Urdaneta, who became the voyage's navigator-historian. They were in search of the East and its spices. The Legazpi group landed in the Philippines and after some time, the boat sailed again for Mexico with just Fray de Urdaneta. Legazpi decided to stay and conquer the new territory for the King of Spain, founding the new settlement of Manila the following year. Salcedo would build Vigan in the north into a replica of a Castilian city.

* * *

For over 200 years, from the 17th to the 19th century, the route that Legazpi and company discovered across the Pacific was to see active trading between Mexico and RP in the "Galleon Trade." As Hubbard explained, goods from all over Asia that were transported to Manila were loaded on the galleons for Acapulco. From that port city they were then ferried by other boats to other Spanish colonies in South America and to Europe. On the return to Manila, the galleons also carried goods from Central and South America and Europe. Thus, said Hubbard, in those galleons were the beginnings of global commerce as we now know it. He also stressed that for the past three years of his tour of duty here, he has tried to celebrate this historic trade in special ways, such as this year's piano concert by Cruzprieto. A toast to lasting Mexican-Filipino friendship.

Writer, teacher and judge

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"WRITING, teaching and the law," in that order, are the biggest loves (apart from her family, of course) of Judge Ma. Nimfa Penaco-Sitaca, recipient of the "Most Outstanding Award" of the first Gender Justice Awards given last Wednesday.

Judge Penaco-Sitaca is presiding judge of the RTC Branch 13 in Oroquieta City, cited for her "lyrically written" decisions, especially on cases involving sexual abuse and violence against women, that "do away with pretentious legalese and unnecessary verbiage."

Something tells me that Penaco-Sitaca was far more pleased by the praise heaped on her writing than the recognition of her legal scholarship by a jury board composed of retired Justice Leonor Ines Luciano, lawyer Lorna Patajo-Kapunan, and journalist Sheila Coronel.

"I have always loved to write," she declares. In fact, some years ago, she wrote a winning essay describing her favorite book. "Word Power Made Easy" by Norman Lewis, she wrote in the essay, transformed her from a terribly shy and retiring child to a self-confident student who astounded her teachers with her prodigious vocabulary.

"I love learning new words and quotations," she confides. "When I read something that is new to me, I highlight it and try to use it at the first opportunity."

Her late father made it a point to give her and her siblings as much reading material as they could absorb. "We cut our teeth on the Reader's Digest and Perry Mason. In fact at one time my brother and I were caught literally eating the pages of the Reader's Digest!"

* * *

THE LESSONS of her youth she applies to this day, requiring her law students at Misamis University not only to read "Word Power" but also to learn a "word for the day." On weekends, she's a volunteer teacher at the local seminary, giving lessons on homily writing. "I feel so proud whenever I hear my former students who have been ordained priests deliver brief homilies that are concise and direct to the point."

Judge Penaco-Sitaca's childhood dream of becoming a writer was frustrated by her mother, who deemed writing an "impractical" occupation and urged her instead to pursue teaching. She compromised by majoring in English while obtaining an education degree. "I was a public school teacher for two years, and at one time, I was assigned to teach in a school in the boondocks, which required me to walk for kilometers," she recounts.

Feeling sorry for her, Penaco-Sitaca's parents finally allowed her to broaden her horizons, and it was even her mother who found her a job in Cebu, as secretary in the law firm headed by the late former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan.

Cebu would be a turning point in the judge's life. "I found that I had too much time on my hands, so I decided to take up law classes in the evenings, after work." It was also in Cebu that she met her husband, a medical student at the time, who was staying in the same boarding house. While waiting for the results of the bar exams and the medical board, the two of them decided to marry and move to Oroquieta to join her family.

* * *

IN OROQUIETA, Penaco-Sitaca pursued her law practice but decided to join the government as a prosecutor, which meant a more predictable schedule, when her four children started arriving "one after the other." She was appointed judge in 1990.

In her very first case, Penaco-Sitaca underwent a most daunting baptism. The case was highly controversial, involving a mayor accused of double murder in an election-related case. "It was during the snap elections of 1986," she recalls. "The Marcoses had promised a bonus to all local officials who produced a 100 percent result in their favor. But the mayor's cousin, a judge, and her brother were campaigning for Cory Aquino. They were shot and killed inside their home and witnesses had implicated the mayor."

Penaco-Sitaca was not the first judge to try the case, and when her turn came, all she could count on were the stenographic notes and a lone surviving witness. All other witnesses had either died or disappeared before or soon after testifying. At one point, her clerk of court came to her crying, begging her to simply acquit the mayor "because you and I have young children."

"I didn't know what to do, even if by then I was convinced of the mayor's guilt," she recalls. "So I decided to consult the Bible and found a message. It was so clear, almost as if it was highlighted just for me. The passage was from Psalm 126: 'The Lord will watch your comings and goings.' For the first time, I felt God had talked to me personally."

* * *

STILL, not wanting to challenge fate directly, she called her old boss Fernan who had by then been named Chief Justice and begged him to have her transferred. She was transferred to Ozamiz "effective immediately," but not until she had read her decision sentencing the mayor to reclusion perpetua.

Less than two years later, Judge Penaco-Sitaca's decision was upheld by the Supreme Court, and much later, she would encounter the former mayor in prison. He had "found" God and was now a lay preacher.

The judge counts former Supreme Court Associate Justice Flerida Ruth Romero as her "fairy godmother," having met her through the Women Judges' Association which twice gave her an award for "Best Written Decision." It was also through Justice Romero that she was able to travel to the United States on an international visitor's grant, another experience that, she says, "transformed my life."

Today, the multi-awarded judge looks forward to retirement. And expectedly, she plans to return to her first love. "I want to write a book, either on the law, something like 'Philippine Law for Dummies,' or on English grammar for law students, especially for *probinsyanas*, like me."

One man's opinion

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

SOMETIMES it's interesting to see what people decades ago thought about certain issues and how they relate to present-day situations.

Carl Crow's opinions ("America & the Philippines" 1914) are not necessarily gospel truth, but isn't it amusing that some Filipino politicians (whom he doesn't name) he interviewed regarding the question of independence were as addicted then as now to answering with the usual motherhood statements about "the development of the Filipino national spirit" (how many crimes have been committed in its name?), but had little to say about more relevant issues such as how the Filipino, unaided, intended to handle the Moro (the word used in text) problem or Chinese immigration? Crow claims that these politicians wanted a guarantee of our neutrality, aware that we were incapable of defending ourselves. They also wanted to keep the Americans in Mindanao to keep the Moros at bay and stop them from attacking the rest of the country.

Proponents of immediate independence, on the other hand, believed that Filipinos could take care of themselves although the only reason supposedly for the retention of the US army here was to protect us from the Muslims.

The more practical thought it would take decades to build up our own army and therefore it was suggested by those advocating immediate independence that the Philippines be declared neutral territory like Belgium and Switzerland. (Actually given our geography, it was believed we were indefensible.) They forgot, as Crow points out, that the only reason any country could remain neutral was that the Great Powers believed it was in their interest.

China had its "territorial integrity" guaranteed by the Great Powers, but Manchuria and Mongolia were taken over by Russia and Japan, without anybody protesting. When Port Arthur reverted to China, China made repeated demands on England to get out of Weihaiwei, to no avail.

Someone else thought that the United States should be the one to guarantee our neutrality. (One has to ask the most obvious question: What would have been in it for the Americans to do so?)

Where Crow was obviously no oracle was in his reading that Japan did not want the Philippines, even though others believed that it did. "By ridding ourselves of the Philippines we would rid ourselves of a possible war" was the way they thought.

The Japanese immigration at the turn of the century failed, unlike that of the Chinese. Crow believed this was because the Filipinos' dislike of the Japanese had been nurtured by the Church whose missionaries "were confined in wooden cages, exhibited like wild animals in all parts of the kingdom, and finally tortured to death." Filipinos even believed that it was the Japanese who introduced leprosy by sending their lepers over after a religious order offered to go there to care for them. (We're talking here about something that supposedly happened several hundred years before, so I don't know how much truth there was in this.)

With prescience though, he did say that "if Japan should ever attempt to take the Philippines, either peacefully or by force, she would immediately be involved in a fight much more stubborn than the one the United States was compelled to put down." Nor would the Filipino Christians accept being governed by non-Christians.

Crow also thought that the danger came from the Chinese not the Japanese and our independence would be the "signal for a stream of Chinese immigrants." Fifty million Chinese could easily be accommodated and these would in turn "make it one of the garden spots of the world and the most prosperous place in the tropics." But would the Filipinos then be crowded out of businesses and the most profitable trades? What then would become of us? (Simple: We would be the politicians and the bureaucrats in government, right?) He predicted that "Chinese would be dominant industrially…within a decade after the granting of independence."

The aristocrats of the country, for we were an aristocratic rather than a democratic country, belonged to the 10 percent of the population and it was their belief that they should rule the 90 percent. These families sent their children to private schools and had little sympathy for popular education, i.e. public. "The change from the chieftain-ruled state of pre-Spanish days to the privileged aristocracy of the Spanish regime was less marked than the change America is now asking them to make, from aristocracy to democracy."

It was the younger generation that had learned to speak English who could effect this change, but their parents heavily influenced them. The process therefore would be slow and could only be achieved through education. "The breaking down of the aristocratic system and the building up of a large body of good citizens who are independent of domination by the upper classes must be the work of several generations…"

In his opinion, the *ilustrados* saw no need for public education. Neither were they particularly impressed by sanitary measures. They opposed English as the lingua franca and chances were if the Americans withdrew, English would be taught only as French or German or any other foreign language. There were at the time no Filipino teachers who could teach English or Spanish, for that matter. With independence "would vanish all hope of making the mass of the Filipinos a self-governing people."

Perfect birthday

YOUNG BLOOD

Patricia Nadine B. Mirasol

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHAT makes up an ideal birthday? To my mind, the perfect birthday should have most, if not all, of these ingredients:

First, the ideal company. Well, this is self-explanatory. Wherever you are and whatever you are doing, if you have the perfect company, everything just falls into place.

Second, the ideal birthday cake. I don't know what is it about birthday cakes that I can be quite obsessive about them at times. I find it a real let-down when the cake isn't sufficiently (there is no other way to put it, cheesy as it may sound) special. Yet time and time again I end up with cakes that are not up to my current specifications. To illustrate, one year I wanted a vanilla cake, and ended up with a chocolate cake. The year I wanted a chocolate cake, I got an expensive one that turned out to be quite bland for my taste and just made me yearn more for my Mom's Cookie Monster Chocolate Cake. This year I wanted a cake with really girlish colors and got one with grown-up hues. At least its taste was divine.

One thing remains a staple in each and all of my cake wishes: I want them all to be really sweet. I swear that the day I get diabetes is the day when I will be served a death sentence.

Third, the ideal food. Who wouldn't want one's favorite dishes on the menu? My customized menu would have Spanish fare, lots of pasta, steaks and dishes with coconut milk. There would definitely be something for the vegetarians, too, since I like leafy greens. Then there would be red wine (for the heart, you know) and smoothies and, yes, the dessert bar would be an entire experience by itself.

Fourth, the ideal weather. Now you can take this literally and figuratively. Literally speaking, I find nothing wrong with rain. Some days, the rain tends to bring out my creative side. On other rainy days, I just want to curl up in bed and concentrate on keeping my toes warm. I find cloudy and/or moderately windy days lovely, too. Figuratively speaking, good weather could mean a positive disposition.

Fifth, the ideal gift(s). Why is it that the older you get, the harder it is to please you? I received an e-mail several years back saying that kids treat McDonald's like a five-star Michelin restaurant, and it had a ring of truth to it. Nowadays, it would seem that the perfect fit for you is harder to find. It's not that you have changed much, or that the things you want or need cost so much or are highly improbable, they just become more elusive. An ideal gift could also come in the form of a teacher or superior cutting you (and your colleagues) some slack, a warm smile and a friendly conversation from someone you like, or a sudden eureka moment.

Sixth, the ideal past year. You have to have a satisfactory previous year. You see, like the party pooper, the occasional presence of birthday blues tend to dilute one's instinctive feelings of well-being. Sometimes the pressure to be happy on one's birthday can also give undue stress. This stress may be exacerbated or diminished, or even completely eliminated, depending on how one has done during the previous year.

Birthdays, you see, are also a time of reflection. You get to reflect—perhaps in the quiet of the day's start before the noise of everyday living erupts—whether anything had actually changed for the better. It's the one chance you get to answer such lovely questions like: Have your priorities always been followed? Have your resolutions been fulfilled? Are you nearer to reaching your goal(s)?

Some people do this kind of self-examination at the year's end during the Christmas season. Others do it on their birthdays. But since birthdays are personal milestones, it seems most appropriate to answer such questions at this time. After some introspection, you would be able to deduce if you had either been a lazy, unwitting oaf or a better version of yourself from last year's. You would have concluded whether you had improved or worsened considerably. It's a draw if you end up somewhere in between.

I believe that one should always be grateful for all the heavenly graces one gets. If some or most or even all of the above are present on your natal day, then you should consider yourself extra blessed, and share with others some of the things you have been fortunate to receive.

Patricia Nadine B. Mirasol, 24, is a computer applications graduate of De La Salle University College of St. Benilde.

IN THE NEWS

Former President Fidel V. Ramos

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Party-list representatives' taste for pork

THE SPECIAL report of Ms Cynthia D. Balana on the party-list system (PDI, 8/3/04), which noted that the party-list representatives defended the pork barrel system, left us all in Mananganggol feeling depressed.

Depressed, because we were expecting the likes of Satur Ocampo, Etta Rosales, Renato Magtubo, Liza Maza, Kim Bernardo-Lokin, et al.—ardent street parliamentarians all, who fought tooth and nail graft and corruption during the Marcos regime—to denounce and expose the evils of the pork barrel. But irony of ironies, they turn up defending the very evil that is basically causing graft and corruption and depriving people of basic social services.

The contention that our legislators are not directly getting pork barrel funds is not an assurance that they are not receiving millions of pesos in "commissions" from officials and contractors of the Department of Public Works and Highways. Here is why:

After investigating several anomalous transactions involving public works, we have found out that the following steps are undertaken to "secure" the "commissions" of the lawmakers: (1) a contractor or a local official will contact a DPWH official to make an estimate of the project that the former has in mind. Naturally, the project will be very much overpriced because the estimate is done through a committee composed only of DPWH officials; (2) the contractor or the local official will then propose to a lawmaker the overpriced public works project; (3) the commission, ranging from 30 percent to 40 percent of the cost of the project, will be paid in advance by the contractor to a bagman of the lawmaker, who will then give the "commission" to the lawmaker minus the *balato* to the bagman and his staff.

Naturally, the corrupt lawmaker cannot be caught red-handed, and the contractor will keep silent because, by "completing" a substandard project, he can still make a killing out of the remaining 70 or 60 percent of the budget for the project. The DPWH officials will also get part of it. And so everyone else involved in the project is happy!

To put a stop to this evil practice, we respectfully propose the abolition of the pork barrel system; or the inclusion of honest and righteous private engineers in the Estimate Committee of the DPWH; and the monitoring by cause-oriented NGOS of all public works projects as to the quality of work accomplished .

—PROCOPIO S. BELTRAN JR.,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The two different worlds of SSS officials and pensioners

ON SEPT. 1, 2004, the Social Security System will celebrate its 47th anniversary.

To many SSS pensioners, the anniversary evokes happy memories because it was during an SSS anniversary celebration when President Corazon C. Aquino decreed a yearly 10-percent increase in their pensions. In fact, there was a year when they received two increases, one effective on Labor Day, May 1, and the other on SSS anniversary.

During the presidency of President Fidel V. Ramos, SSS pensioners received pension adjustments but not on the "yearly increase basis." In former President Joseph Estrada's term (a little over two years), the regular 10-percent increase in SSS pensions was applied only once.

In more than three years of her presidency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has still to make adjustments in the SSS pensions, which many pensioners now find meager and niggardly. But this year, an adjustment seems most unlikely because of what Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. has described as SSS' "financial problem."

I think SSS pensioners deserve some explanation from Ms Arroyo why, during her presidency, the SSS has been silent about the pension adjustments while thousands of SSS retirees live below the poverty line.

In contrast, top SSS officials are enjoying fat salaries and benefits which need to be reduced, as suggested by Senator Villar.

—FACUNDO S. TALLO,
lawyer,
Angela Village, Talon IV,
Las Piñas City

DOLE orders extremely hazardous to OFWs

LABOR Secretary Partricia Sto. Tomas recently issued Department Orders 63-04 and 64-04. The first stipulates that all overseas Filipino workers with cross-border jobs in whatever capacity should be covered by work hazard premium pay not lower than 100 percent of their basic salary and an additional insurance of not less than US$35,000. The second formally establishes the DOLE crisis management committee to handle problems involving OFWs caught by acts of violence, terrorism and other similar circumstances abroad.

These orders are merely hodge-podge guidelines that do not address the plight of OFWs in the Middle East. They are not pro-active moves that guarantee the safety of land-based OFWs performing cross-border assignments similar to that of freed hostage Angelo de la Cruz when he was abducted by Iraqi militants. Instead, the orders only put a price tag on OFWs who are forced by the extremely low wages they receive in Saudi Arabia to take on riskier cross-border jobs.

How can these orders compel recruitment agencies and foreign principals to shell out more money for hazard pay and insurance cover? Secretary Sto. Tomas and special envoy to the Middle East Roy Cimatu cannot even get their information and analysis of the situation faced by OFWs at worksites in Iraq; including truck drivers forced to cross into the war-torn country from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Sto. Tomas and Cimatu, prior to the De la Cruz hostage crisis, always asserted in public that the OFWs in Iraq were safe. On the average, OFW truck drivers earn US$150 (P8,250) a month in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They get additional compensation if they take the extremely hazardous task of driving supplies into Iraq.

It may be recalled that Ambassador Jose Ibazeta and labor attaché Angelo Jimenez were nowhere in sight during the whole Angelo de la Cruz hostage crisis. Sto. Tomas and Cimatu endangered the life of De la Cruz by peddling wrong information to the public on his supposed release even while he was still being held by Iraqi rebels.

This is how bad this government is when it comes to looking after the safety of OFWs. Labor officials are not doing their jobs to immediately repatriate stranded workers from Kuwait, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. How can a crisis committee, headed by and composed of negligent government officials, help alleviate the plight of distressed OFWs in the Middle East?

Sto. Tomas and Cimatu must be removed from their posts for neglecting and further endangering the lives of OFWs.

—CONNIE BRAGAS-REGALADO,
chair, Migrante Sectoral Party,
115-B Kamuning Road, Quezon City

Ibon research consultant not with UP School of Statistics

THIS is to correct an information included in a front-page news article "Most Pinoys don't believe GMA won, says survey" (PDI, 8/07/04) under the by-line of D.J. Yap and Juliet Labog-Javellana. The article mentioned that Tom Tallado, a consultant of Ibon Foundation in the survey which was the subject of the report, is with the School of Statistics of the University of the Philippines. Please be informed that Tom Tallado has never been a faculty, staff, nor student of the School of Statistics.

—LISA GRACE S. BERSALES, PhD,
dean and professor of Statistics,
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University of the Philippines,
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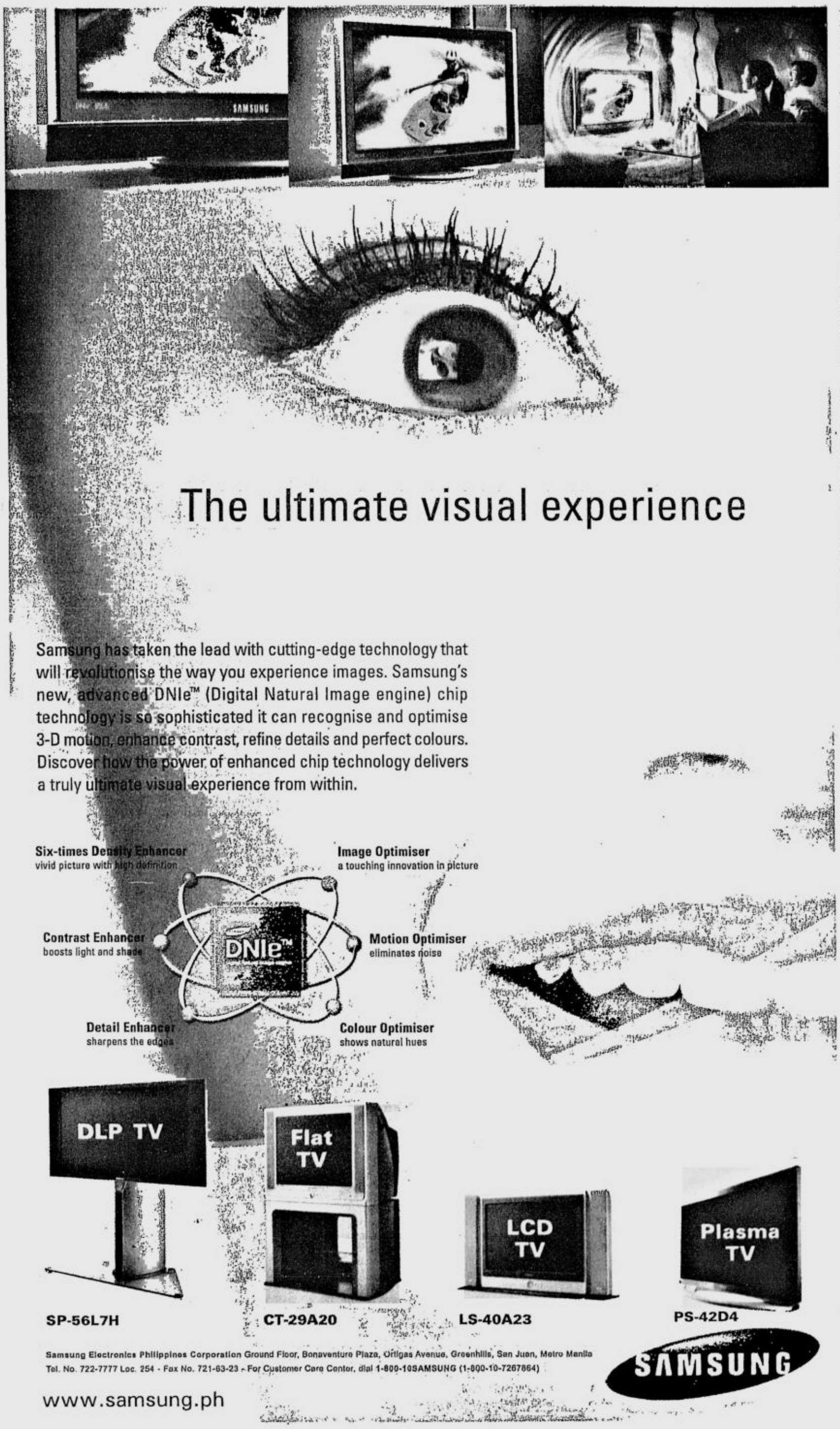

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AFP 'battle for hearts, minds' starts in camp

DAVAO CITY—The military has started training some of its personnel on journalism but officials said graduates of the 10-day "tri-media seminar workshop for members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," which will end next Friday, would not be embedded into various media outfits.

CORPUS

The seminar, which started Monday, is being held in Camp Aguinaldo.

"No they will not become embedded journalists and they will also not become members of the mainstream media," Capt. Rodel Tayag, deputy operations officer of the AFP's Civil Relations Service (CRS), told the INQUIRER.

The military's decision to equip soldiers with skills on news gathering, reporting has earned the ire of various groups, including journalists, particularly when a ranking military officer said graduates of the seminar would be fielded to various news organizations.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, a former Manila Times reporter, said the move was aimed at spying on the media.

But Tayag said the 28 participants would return to their original units.

He said the participants, including five officers and two civilian CRS employees, would help their respective unit of assignments and the CRS by drafting press releases and "probably answer issues concerning their units."

Tayag said the 10-day seminar is actually the second media training activity for members of the military.

"The training isn't what the media anticipated it to be," Air Force Lt. Lian de la Cruz-Busto told the INQUIRER.

Busto said the "training helps and it will come in handy."

The seminar includes theories and exercises on news writing, editorial writing, photography, radio and broadcasting script writing and lay-outing.

Practical exams on radio scriptwriting and infomercials would be given next week.

In his message during the seminar's opening, CRS chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus said the "activity which we are about to start would equip you as media specialists."

But he said the seminar is not aimed at molding soldiers to become mainstream practitioners.

"Not in the sense that you go around carrying a camera going to places to get news, no. This seminar aims for something more," he said.

Corpus said the military considers the media as "instruments for social change."

"More than this, they are there to inculcate a particular form of consciousness in the minds of the public. In this sense therefore, they are expected to help in all efforts toward public enlightenment by disseminating fair, factual and accurate information," he said.

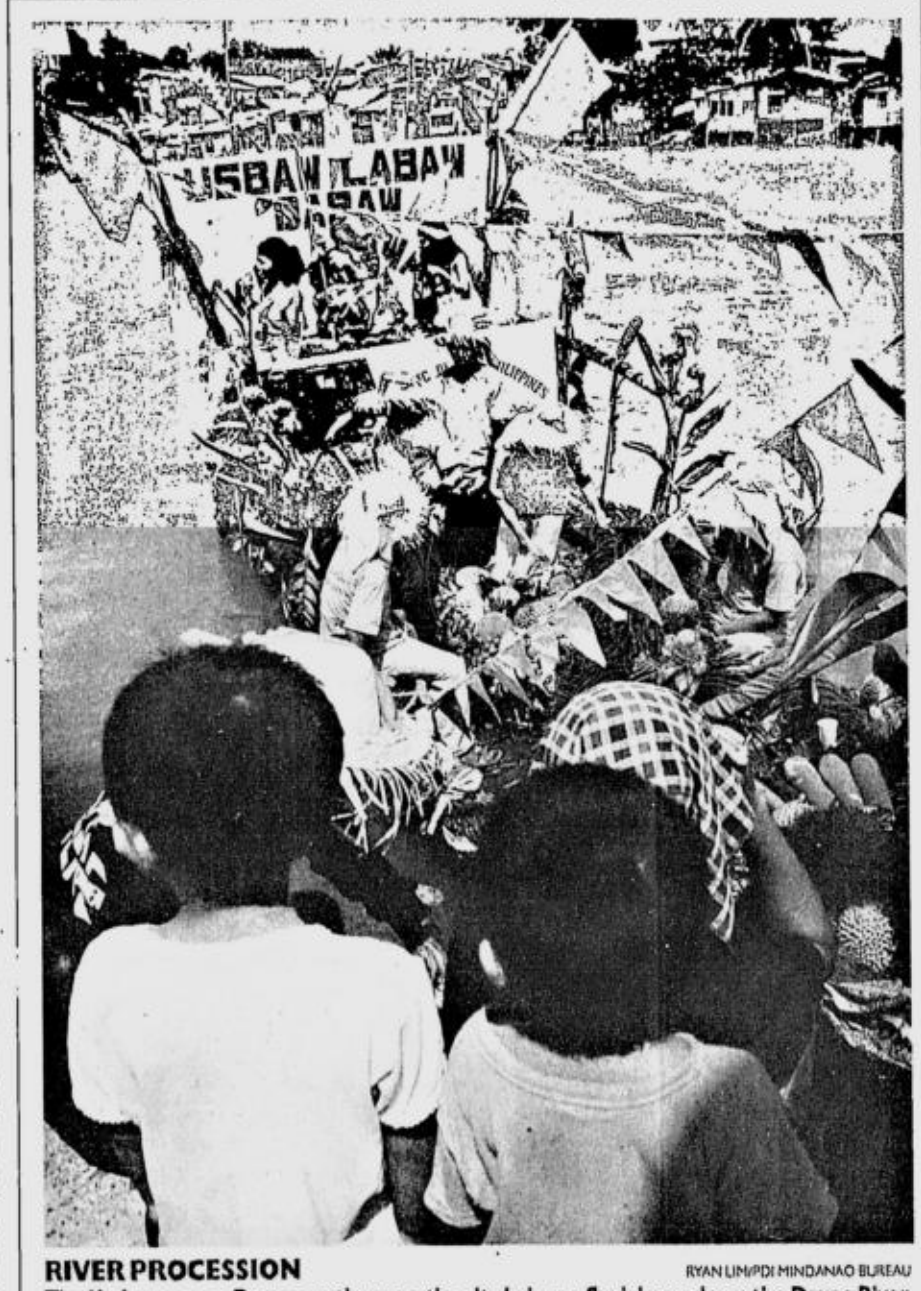
Corpus then took a shot at the media by saying "sometimes media practitioners tend to mislead their readers not just because they are capable of doing such but it is because they allow their selves to be used and motivated by some interested groups."

He said this was the main reason the military started training soldiers on reporting.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is the reason why you are here today. To hone you in a bloodless fight this command has been fighting for—the battle of winning the hearts and minds of the people. As soldiers your role is not only defense and other traditional duties. Today your duties include keeping the people informed on issues of national interest," he said.

Corpus, the government's former spy chief, said graduates of the 10-day seminar should have to know "the meaning of the word (media), practice it and live with it."

"The knowledge you will learn in this seminar will be your big asset in overcoming problems in the future and will propel you to more challenging responsibilities. What you are about to undergo maybe the rudiments of what tri-media is all about. But believe you, after hurdling this seminar, your transformation will be such that you will tell yourself that you are capable of being good communicators," he said. *Joselle d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



RIVER PROCESSION RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
The Kadayawan sa Davao continues as the city brings a fluvial parade on the Davao River to celebrate its annual festival.

Ex-US Marine, 7 others held for firearms

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A former American Marine officer and his seven Filipino companions were arrested at past 9 p.m. on Thursday at a police checkpoint in Sagay City, 88 km north of here, after they were found in possession of high-powered firearms.

Arrested were Russ Robinson, 31, a former lieutenant in the US Marines from California who now resides here after marrying a Bacoleña; Olivel Samodal, 24; Laiza Pepito, 19; Blue Eagle Force security guards Danilo Saludo, 47, and Emmanuel Yasay, 24; and three officers of the security agency, operations inspector George Liu, 54, marketing officer Reynaldo Jardeleza, 26, and staff officer Dionisio Beboso, 45.

Charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives will be filed against the eight, according to Negros Occidental provincial police director Supt. Mark Edison Belarma.

Seized

One baby Armalite, an M-16 rifle, one mini Uzi machine pistol, a .40 caliber pistol, four 9 mm pistols of different brands, two rifle grenades, four hand held radios, about 600 rounds of ammunition of different caliber, and a night vision device were seized from the eight, Belarma said.

Supt. Norberto Boston, Sagay police chief, said the American claimed they had mission orders to carry firearms issued by the Bacolod-based Blue Eagle Force, the security agency owned by his wife Janette Sigon.

But Belarma said the seized firearms were not recorded in the Police Firearms Information Management System.

The M16 rifle and the Uzi had defaced serial numbers while the baby Armalite's serial number was tampered with, he said.

Boston said they had been on alert for a week after receiving reports that a group of armed men, believed to be responsible for the indiscriminate firing at a resort in Escalante town, would pass through Sagay City.

Gozun warns piggeries of closure if river pollution found

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun yesterday ordered water sample tests on nine piggery farms in Bulacan suspected of dumping wastes into rivers draining to the Candaba Swamp, an international important bird habitat in Asia.

Visibly irked that no tests had been done since July when complaints from officials, farmers and residents in Candaba town swamped the Environmental Management Bureau in Central Luzon, Gozun also warned erring firms of closure.

"Get the samples in two days. After a week, I want the results. Let's not be fooling one another. I will order your closure if it's warranted," the secretary said in a dialogue here.

The nine companies, including the three biggest—Universal Robina Farm, Federal Agricultural Corp., and Console Farms Corp.—operate in San Miguel and San Ildefonso towns in Bulacan. These towns are on the southeastern boundary of Candaba.

Price to pay

Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo said untreated wastewater and animal waste from the swine farms had damaged crops worth P59 million and destroyed fish worth P51 million in the town last year.

He urged an immediate stop to the alleged pollution, saying that Asian migratory birds also stand to lose their habitat at the swamp.

This wetland, all of 32,000 hectares, is a breeding and feeding ground of waterfowls, especially wild ducks, during winter season in Asia. They arrive between October and December.

The swamp, also mostly privately owned now, is one of the three important marshlands in the country. It is also a natural flood basin in Central Luzon.

Noting the rainy season when wastes are diluted, Gozun instructed EMB personnel to get samples at sources, and split the samples in laboratories to verify further the results.

Companies exerting efforts to comply with environmental laws and standards will be given technical assistance, she said.

Pampanga advocates

The same orders applied to the Sta. Cruz and Marson farms in Porac, Pampanga.

The Krusada Kontra Amoy wanted these closed due to foul odor and water pollution, according to its spokesperson Rudy de Guzman.

Less than 10 swine farms also operate there without environmental clearance certificates, it was learned.

Krusada's Joyce Tamayo asked why the companies were "being allowed to invoke due process when these do not respect the rights of citizens to clean air and water?"

Replying to that, Gozun apologized for the EMB regional office by citing its limited staff and resources. She held a closed door meeting with them. Some staffers emerged from the meeting crying.

Representatives of hog raisers were not given a chance to air their side during the dialogue that turned tense several times.

They agreed to be part of the multipartite monitoring teams, which the EMB initiated.

Maid who fled cruelty in Kuwait tells of more abused Filipinos

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Liezl Gustilo, 23, of Tagda, Hinigaran, Negros Occidental, returned to the Philippines Thursday with tales of cruelty committed against Filipino domestic helpers in Kuwait.

She said there are still about 300 out of originally more than 500 Filipino workers staying at the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait awaiting repatriation, while there are others who have been jailed for escaping from their employers.

Many of those she saw at the embassy, Gustilo said, had been physically abused by their employers and one was even raped.

She told the INQUIRER that Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Bayani Mangibin did little to help in her immediate return home after she escaped from her cruel employer and for others still waiting for permission to leave Kuwait.

She said she was, however, thankful for the help of other embassy personnel and Labor Attaché Leopoldo de Jesus and Rep. Ignacio Arroyo Jr. who facilitated her return to the Philippines.

Liezl, mother of a four-year-old child, arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Thursday afternoon and will return to Negros today.

She was met by Arroyo and Hinigaran Mayor Caroll Guanco.

Liezl left for Kuwait in February 2002 to work as a domestic helper.

She said her first employer passed her on to a second employer, Leila Al-Hindal, who made her work in her beauty salon in the daytime and at night as a helper in her house.

"Because I was very tired from my day job, when we got home, sometimes Madame Leila would not be pleased with my work and would hit me with a cooking pot. She also made me clean three cars until 4 a.m. leaving me with very little sleep," Liezl said.

She said the maltreatment worsened when the husband of her employer discovered that she was cheating on him.

Liezl said Madame Leila's husband beat her up when she refused to tell him what she knew of his wife's activities since she was with her most of the time.

"When I would not tell him that Madame Leila had a boyfriend he slapped me and pushed me until I fell to the cement floor," she added.

Liezl said she decided to escape and sought refuge from a woman she identified as "Ate Amira," another Filipina working in Kuwait.

She said it was Ate Amira who brought her to the Philippine Embassy.

She said when domestic helpers escape from their employers they are usually charged with absconding and are jailed.

Highway rehab seen to spur C. Luzon growth

WIDER lanes leading to new toll booths at the North Luzon Expressway. PHOTO COURTESY OF MNTC

THE FIRM rehabilitating the North Luzon Expressway (NLE) predicted an improved growth in the economy of Central Luzon as the new expressway is now more than 80 percent complete.

In a press statement, the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) said studies have shown that Central Luzon lagged behind Southern Luzon in terms of development.

In 1998, the region's contribution to national gross domestic product was just 9.4 percent but it dropped to 7.4 percent in 2000. In the same period, Southern Luzon's contribution to GDP was 14.9 percent in 1998, 13.9 percent in 2000 and 15.6 percent in 2002.

Marlene Ochoa, MNTC assistant vice president for public relations, said it was superior roads that spelled the difference in economic growth between the two regions.

Southern Luzon has four tollways—South Luzon Expressway, Skyway System, Coastal Road and Star Tollway—while Central Luzon has only one, the NLE.

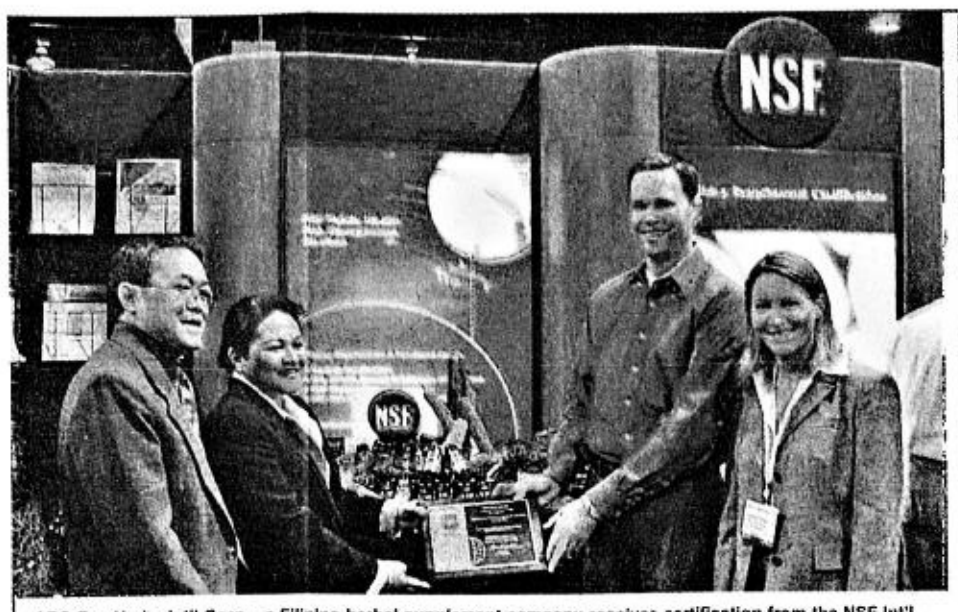
These superior roads gave rise to economic zones in the South which totaled 63 as of July 2002, against Central Luzon's 13.

A study by the University of the Philippines showed that modernization of the NLE also offers a major solution to the traffic decongestion program of the government.

According to MNTC president Jose de Jesus the new expressway will accommodate 1,000 vehicles "per lane per hour per direction or twice as many as each lane used to accommodate in an hour in a single direction."

This will be made possible by the addition of new lanes, interchanges, toll plazas and toll booths anywhere from Balintawak in Metro Manila to Sta. Ines in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

The expansion of the capacity limit of the NLE by six to eight lanes in some portions, and four to six lanes in other portions, was designed to accommodate a dramatic increase in vehicle volume without sacrificing speed and comfort.



ABS Gen Herbs Int'l Corp – a Filipino herbal supplement company receives certification from the NSF Int'l. Receiving the plaque are from left – representing ABS Gen Herbs are Ms. Grace Gupana, Vice President of ABS, and Dr. Antonio Reyes, Vice President Int'l Operations, with NSF officials – Jennifer Torrenti – Dietary Supplements Project Manager, and Martin Ripley, Assistant Business Development Manager.

Vice President Noli De Castro cuts ribbon during the inauguration of ABS Herbs office and the PG Prayer Tower at Quezon City, with his wife Arlene De Castro, Grace Galindez-Gupana, ABS Vice President and Rev. Ed Lapiz, Senior Pastor, Day By Day Ministry.

NSF International – The Public Health and Safety Company, is a not-for-profit, non-government organization based in Michigan, USA. It is a world leader in standards development, product certification, education and risk-management for public health and safety. They test products ranging from supplements, bottled water to functional foods and beverages. Its goal is to protect public health and to develop and enforce standards that protect public health. NSF International offers a dietary supplements certification program based on the requirements of the **American National Standards Institute 173** which develops a universal standard for dietary supplement verification and testing.

ABS Gen Herbs Int'l Corp. is the first Filipino herbal supplement company which is tested, evaluated and its product ABS Bitter Herbs capsules and tablets certified for safety, efficacy and quality by a foreign, independent and recognized testing organization. Its trend-setting and well-known herbal supplement brands ABS Bitter Herbs capsule/ tablet containing Power7Herbs for overall wellness, has been strictly tested, scrutinized for content quality. "Getting the NSF certification is a giant leap for our company as it differentiates our products from other herbal supplements in the market," says Grace Gupana, Vice President of ABS Gen Herbs. "This will ensure consumer confidence for our products in the Philippine herbal industry. This mark is dedicated to the Filipino people, for this shows that we have the potential to create, develop and market products that can be accepted globally. Presently, the ABS Herbs product will be available in the US market through well known US retail stores – Costco, Walgreens and other Filipino and Asian stores through its US distributor RAMAR Foods International Corporation. Its other products ABS Herbal Tea for slimming and Charagen Ampalaya Tea and capsule for lowering blood sugar.

ABS Herbs new products include GraceVirgin Coconut Oil in 500 and 250 ml. bottle and Kolestrim Virgin Coconut Fiber capsule. Virgin coconut oil and fiber is good for overall wellness. Other new products include CircuMax containing 5 herbs + Ginseng which is good for blood circulation and ABSlim- a cereal meal which promotes weight reduction. All new products will be available soon in retail outlets nationwide.

Local, Pang-Global!

MENSAHE PARA SA TAGUMPAY NG PINOY

INDEPENDENTLY NSF CERTIFIED

ABS HERBS POWER 7 HERBS VEGETABLE SUPPLEMENT

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
HON. NOLI L. DE CASTRO

From the Office of
JUAN M. FLAVIER, M.D., M.P.H
Senate President Pro Tempore

TO ABS Gen Herbs Int'l.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

Your corporation earned the distinction of being the first Filipino herbal supplement company that is tested and evaluated by a foreign, independent and recognized testing organization, NSF International – the Public Health and Safety Company. This award signifies triumph for the Filipino people as well, being an indication that we can ably create, develop and market products that are at par with global standards. I welcome the creation of products that are of high-quality, safe, and effective. Your production of ABS Bitter Herbs capsule/ tablet for overall wellness reflects your effort towards the improvement of the physical well-being of our countrymen.

May this seal of certification inspire you to continue producing efficient products to improve the health and nutritional well being of our fellow Filipinos.

Congratulations to ABS Gen Herbs International Corporation for receiving the NSF International certification for their ABS bitter herb capsules. Being given a certification by a world renowned NGO in standards development, product certification, education and risk-management for public health and safety surely underscores the quality and reliability of your product.

I also note with pride that your product is the first herbal supplement in Southeast Asia to be receiving the NSF mark. Magaling talaga ang Pinoy.

May this serve as an incentive for you to continue your excellent manufacturing and marketing practices, and in making sure that consumers get value of their money. I also hope that your certification could serve as an inspiration for other companies to emulate.

Mabuhay kayo and Let's DOH it again.

Straight from the Heart

Senator JUAN M. FLAVIER, MD, MPH, former Secretary of Health and author of the Traditional and Alternative Medicine ACT (TAMA)

The Power of Herbs

What is the importance of Herbal products? We have proven that herbal products are very much cost effective and fit very well in the Filipino budget for health care. We have also proven that herbal products are very much effective that is why I am encouraging everyone to patronize them. However, if you feel that these herbal products do not have any effect on you, then by all means, do not use them. Another benefit you can get from herbal products is that they don't have any side effects. This is because they come from natural sources, unlike the artificial and synthetic medicines that may have dangerous side-effects.

What is your opinion regarding the circular given out by the DOH about Ampalaya? You know, here in our country, the use of ampalaya as a medicine is being addressing this problem is by patronizing local, traditional and alternative medicines. Such is the result of my bill that was passed into a law.

Personally, I , as well as my family and friends, use it. It really helped me a lot, and I strongly recommend it for everyone's use. This is what I can do as a former Health Secretary and now as a Senator - to advice and encourage the use of local products in order to help our country 's economy. With this way we can cut down our expenses for medicines, and health care cost. This product is tried and tested. For those who are using the product, continue using it; however, if you don't feel good about it, then do not use it.

What support does the government give to the herbal industry? What is important is that we have the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act that recognizes herbal products. We established the Phil. Institute of Traditional and Alternative Medicine that will be responsible in monitoring the study of herbal products. The landmark Law supports the use of herbal products for the betterment of our country. The prices of western medicines, as well as the cost of medical care, are on a hike. One way of criticized. In the U.S., there is this so-called NSF, a private, non-profit body that studies herbal products from their contents to their safety profile. ABS Gen Herbs products were accepted by this body as effective and safe to use. That is why ABS Gen Herbs need not explain lengthily when asked about its product effectiveness and safety. It just has to show this certificate logo, a proof that ABS is recognized by the NSF. This only shows that we Filipinos can make it globally. I do hope this will serve as an inspiration to other entrepreneurs to strive hard and make it to the top.

What is the importance of being NSF-International registered?

NSF-International is a non-government organization based in Michigan, USA. It is a world leader in standard development, product certification, education and risk management for public health and safety. ABS Herbs received the certification award of NSF. Its product is known and is being patronized worldwide. It is sad to know that here in our country, we do not honor these kinds of products, when this is one way whereby we can help our economy to rise, and we just let that opportunity slip away.

Final Message: I am very happy that finally, ABS Herbs is recognized globally. Also, I'm asking our countrymen who do not recognize this product, to be aware that we are way behind other countries, and that we have to help ourselves and our country's economy. Let's do away with crab mentality, and help one another. We have already seen that ABS Herbs is recognized internationally. Why can't we? Let's patronize our own products. This will be our first step in developing our economy.

Watch Magandang Gabi Bayan (Channel 2 ABS-CBN) tonight at 8:30 pm to see coverage of this herbal breakthrough.

What People Say about

ABS Power 7 Bitter Herbs

Pastor Ed Lapiz
DAY BY DAY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

It is with pride and pleasure that I salute you for having passed the rigid and standard-setting test, evaluation and certification of NSF International for ABS Bitter Herbs capsule and tablet. While I have always believed in the quality and safety of your products, it is doubly reassuring to be certified by the world-leading public health and safety company. The acceptance and admiration accorded to ABS products by international standard keepers and consumers make every patriotic Filipino proud. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless many people through ABS products. Mabuhay!

ABS Bitter Herbs is very effective to regulate and ease my daily elimination. They enhance my physical well-being, significantly renewed vigor and energy, to perform my daily activities, particularly to wake up at 4 AM, 6 days a week for dawn prayer watch at the ABS Prayer Tower.

Bishop George T. Castro

I am happy to see and use a product like ABS 7 Bitter Herbs from the Philippines. You know the British have bitters before they have food. The French have it too. Why, because it prepares the system for digestion and assimilation. That is why it has been found efficacy in immune balance, digestive assistance, blood sugar balancing, helping the body remove toxins, which the body will naturally do if it has those basic nutritional components of ABS Bitter Herbs. So food is best, bitters are good.

James J. Julian, MD
Medical Director
Julian Holistic Medical Center, Hollywood, USA

Dr. Lemuel Tocjayao, a firm believer in the value of nutritional herbs says, "herbs or plants have been here for a long, long time. Our ancestors before used herbs to cure or alleviate various illnesses. It is a fact that 75% of the medicines in a drugstore are synthesized from plants. That is why we cannot contest the value and benefit that can be derived from these herbs." Dr. Tocjayao is currently a member of the Philippine College for the Advancement of Medicine which is a group of physicians, nutritionist and para-medical personnel which prescribes herbal supplements.

ABS HERBAL TEA

"I take ABS Herbal Tea® regularly to maintain a light and right body weight. All the toxins from indigestible and processed foods that I ate the previous day are flushed out with no effort. With ABS Herbal Tea®, it makes me feel good."

Elena M. Chua
Business Woman
President, Manila Golfers Foundation, Inc.

ABS Herbal Tea is nourishing and soothing. When drunk cold, it refreshes not to mention its cleansing power of removing body waste and toxins. I find them God inspired, God given to everyone, rich and poor, as answer to healthy problems.

Gemma C. Sanchez,
Cebu City

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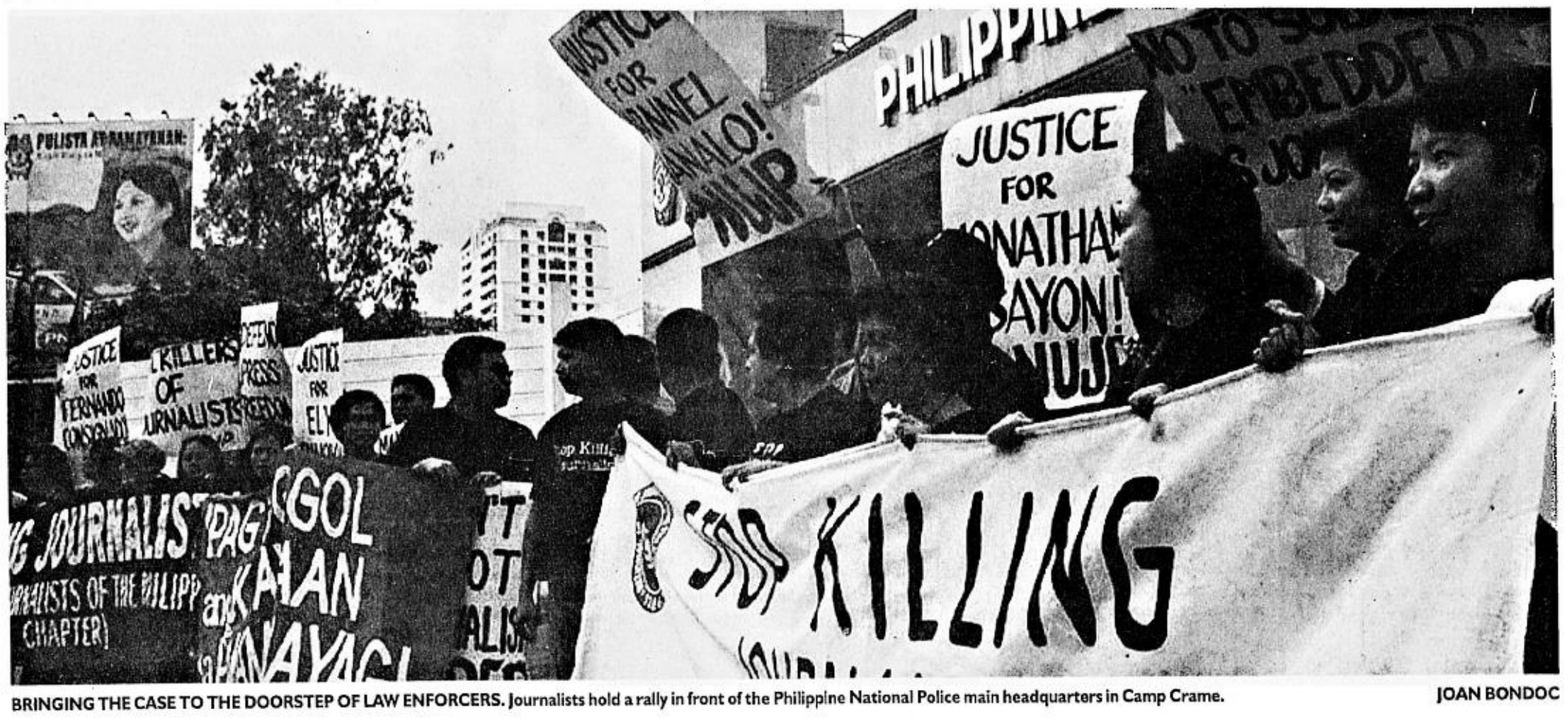

BRINGING THE CASE TO THE DOORSTEP OF LAW ENFORCERS. Journalists hold a rally in front of the Philippine National Police main headquarters in Camp Crame. JOAN BONDOC

Journalists living in dangerous times

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Iloilo City

JOSE Marte Nava was on his way home with his father Josef on Oct. 30, 1988, when a man approached the pedicab they were riding in and shot his father in the head.

As Jose, then 17, ran toward their house more than 500 meters away to ask for help, his father lay slumped on his seat, gasping for breath until he died.

The gunman escaped and has remained free to this day, or 16 years after the murder.

For years, Jose had to be treated for depression to overcome his guilt. "I was the last person he was with and I failed to save his life," he said.

Now 33, Jose has come to terms with his father's fate. He continues to seek the truth behind the attack even as he is certain that his father was killed because of his work.

Josef was editor-publisher of the monthly news magazine Visayan Life Today based in Iloilo City. He also hosted "Bulls Eye," a nightly program in the now defunct radio station dyRP.

He is among the 55 journalists murdered since 1986, whose families are still seeking justice.

The recent spate of killings—four province-based journalists were gunned down in less than two weeks—has brought back pain to the victims' families. But they also hope that the heightened national attention will help the case of their lost loved ones.

"Our family rarely discusses my father's case but I know that each of us wants it solved," said Jose.

A scion of militant labor leader and journalist Jose Ma. Nava, Josef was exposing fictitious loans at the Government Service Insurance System when he was killed. He was also denouncing drug syndicates in his radio program, said Jose.

'Blank wall'

Several months after the murder, police told the Navas that they had faced a "blank wall." No suspects, no motive.

The family, too, failed to come up with anything substantial in its own investigation.

But Jose believes the government and law enforcers have not exerted their best efforts in solving the killing. "They should pursue the case because they are the only ones with resources and personnel to do so," he said.

Like Josef, the killing of Bombo Radyo broadcaster Eddie Suede and cub reporter Noel Teneso on July 1, 1985, has remained unsolved.

Suede and Teneso were dining at the Pala-Pala Restaurant along the now Benigno Aquino Jr. Avenue in Iloilo City when several men approached their table and shot them dead.

Suede, host of dyFM's program "Bombohanay sa Udto," was then exposing the alleged existence of a syndicate in the GSIS, said Jenil Demorito, the network's Visayas area manager for AM stations.

Unlike hard-hitting commentators, Suede was known for his lampoon-style criticisms. He often composed songs and poems, and used sarcasm in his criticisms, "which really get on your nerves."

No witnesses had come out and police had no leads, Demorito said.

FOR FALLEN COMRADES. Photojournalists lay down their cameras as a symbol of disgust over police failure to solve the killings of journalists and police's overall inefficiency in solving crimes. JM GUIAO PUNZALAN

"It was a well-planned hit, but we are sure it was connected to the issues we were then tackling."

Teneso's death was painful for his wife Miguela. Then 26, the trainee was killed just because he happened to be with Suede at that time.

Elusive justice

Miguela was still nursing a six-week-old daughter, their third child, when she heard of the killings on the radio. "I mourned his death for a long time and it was difficult for me to raise our three children alone," she said.

After 19 years and with no solution in sight, Miguela has left her husband's case to God.

Justice remains elusive, too, for another Bombo Radyo anchor, Severino Arcones.

A man, accompanied by several lookouts, shot and killed Arcones in the early morning of Oct. 17, 1989. The broadcaster was then warming up his car in front of his house on Democracia Street in the city's Jaro District.

Arcones was no stranger to threats. Demorito, who took over Arcones' popular program "Zona Libre," said the victim packed an Uzi machine pistol and had bodyguards armed with M-16 rifles.

Demorito said the killers could have been members of a liquidation squad of the communist Alex Boncayao Brigade, popularly known as "Sparrow Unit" for its swiftness in carrying out its missions.

Up to now, the rebel movement has not owned up to the killing, as has been its usual practice. The ABB split from the mainstream communist underground in the early 1990s due to ideological differences.

No witnesses have come out, even from Arcones' neighborhood.

The same problem has hounded the case of Aklan broadcaster Rolando Ureta, who was gunned down on Jan. 3, 2001 while aboard a motorcycle on his way to his parents' house in Barangay Bagtu, Lezo, Aklan, 7 kilometers west of the capital town of Kalibo.

Two men on a motorcycle drove alongside the broadcaster and shot him. Ureta fell into a ditch and managed to reach a house alongside the national highway before the assassins finished him off. He had five bullet wounds.

Ureta was program director of dyKR of the Radio Mindanao Network and also hosted the program "Agong Nightwatch." At the time of his death, he was investigating the proliferation of illegal gambling and drug trafficking in the province.

Emily said her husband was aware of the threats but did not want to quit on issues that he had already started discussing in his program.

After nearly four years, Emily and her six-year-old son are still seeking justice. "He keeps on telling me he wants to become the chief of the National Bureau of Investigation when he grows up so he come run after his father's killers," she said of her son.

When Emily heard about the recent series of media killings, she retrieved the documents on her husband's case. "I was saddened, but I also thought that the renewed attention offered a chance that my prayers would be finally answered."

Jose Marte Nava said he was sure that his family will finally learn the truth about his father's death.

The victims' families ... welcomed the government's reward offers for the arrest of the killers and the plan of the Philippine National Police to form teams to look into each unsolved case and to hunt down the suspects.

The families are ready to offer their cooperation and help the law enforcers. "But the resolution of the cases will depend on the government's seriousness to comply with its pronouncements," said Jose.

Closing ranks

The often-fractious Iloilo media community has closed ranks to demand justice and prod the police and the government to solve the cases. On Aug. 6, some 100 journalists came to a hastily planned candlelight protest to condemn the recent killings.

The local chapter of the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines and the Iloilo Press Club intend to hold a dialogue with police officials in Western Visayas to check on the status of the cases and why these have not progressed.

Despite the shock of the latest successive killings, the journalists vowed to continue the work of their fallen colleagues, aware of the price anyone could be forced to pay.

In the announcer's booth of Bombo Radyo in Iloilo, a banner with the pictures of the station's slain broadcasters delivers the message clearly: "Remember our martyrs."

A never-ending debate over Bisaya or Tagalog as RP language

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Tacloban City

THE DEBATE between Bisaya and Tagalog, the two main languages of the Philippines, started centuries ago when Spanish missionaries started to take sides on the issue.

The earliest to take a position was Jesuit Fr. Pedro Chirino, who was among the first missionaries of his order to serve in Leyte and in the Tagalog areas. In his "Relacion de las Islas Filipinas" (Rome, 1604), Chirino noted that the Bisayan language was extensive and used on all the islands of the Pintados (i.e., the Bisayan Islands, where many people were tattooed).

Sadly, Chirino wrote something else that belittled the language. It was cruder than Tagalog, in which one found phrases of good upbringing, reserve and courtesy, he said.

The case for Bisaya worsened after Chirino's opinion was affirmed some 60 years later by another Jesuit, Fr. Francisco Colin, in his "Labor Evangelica," a report of the Jesuit missions published in 1663 that expanded an unpublished "Historia" earlier written by Chirino.

Uncontested

As fate would have it, the position of the two Jesuits in favor of Tagalog remained uncontested within their order for more than two centuries. This happened because the work of Jesuit Fr. Juan E Delgado, titled "Historia General Sacro-Profana, Politica y Natural de las Islas del Poniente Llamadas Filipinas," which was written and completed in Samar in 1754, would not be published until 1892.

Delgado contradicted the opinions of his predecessors:

"Courtesy is the same in all languages, although Fr. Colin said that the Bisayan [language] is cruder because it does not add to each [sentence the phrase] *señor mio*, as Tagalog [had done]. Certainly, the Latin and Castilian languages are not crude, although these words [i.e., *señor mio*] are not added. And even for that reason, Fr. Colin added to say that he did not seek to disapprove of [the omission], because each language was respected by the natives and had their beauty and elegance. Although he [Fr. Colin] was alone in adding *señor mio* to each sentence, it did not seem that there was more elegance than he had thought of in Tagalog.

"Before their type of speaking was affected [i.e., diluted by Spanish], Tagalog was not as solemn as Bisaya. In more than one or other language, they speak in the third person with people of honor, and the word guinoo (lord or mister) is common in Tagalog and Bisaya. But as we would note in another place, Tagalog is more effeminate due to the addition of *po, co*, or *señor mio*.

"Bisaya is more solemn and more masculine; its speakers would give a masculine sound to the *o* and the *u* when pronouncing their words, and they do not have the *i* that is used in Tagalog. For example, Tagalogs call the teeth *ngipin*, and the Bisayans, *ngipon*. And thus, many other words and passives end in *-un* in Bisaya, and *-in* in Tagalog, from all of which could be inferred that the Bisayan language is more noble, although it does not have the sweetness of the Tagalog *i*, nor the *po, co* that are repeated in every sentence."

Bisayan root

In a different timeline, Abbot Lorenzo Hervas y Panduro, presumably an Augustinian friar, also made a case on behalf of the Bisayan language in his "Catalogo de las Lenguas de las Naciones Conocidas," which was published around 1800.

He said: "If we examine the meanings of the names of the islands in the Philippines, we would find that almost all of them are of the Bisayan language: for its seems that the Bisayans, also called Pintados (tattooed), were their first residents. The biggest island is called Luzon, an old name according to Argensola. (Note: Fr. Bartolome Leonardo de Argensola published the conquest of the Mollucas in 1609.)

"Colin had it that, in the language of the natives, the word means the pylon or mortar in which they pounded or cleaned the rice that is their ordinary bread. In Bisaya, Luzon [i.e., *lusong*] means 'mortar'; in Malay it is called *leson* ...

"The name Mindanao, for the second largest island, comes from the Bisayan words *min, danao*. The first word is a particular composite, and the second means 'lake,' which in Malay-Tagalog is called *tasse* (sic). *Danao* comes from *dagat*, sea. The island of Mindanao has plenty of lakes.

"Samar is the name of an island in the Bisayas, in their language it means 'wound.' Suluan is the name of a deserted island to the southeast of Samar; it means '[sea] water full of currents,' which surrounded the island of Suluan, and would make it very difficult to reach there. These currents had drifted lost vessels [in the Pacific] to usually land in Samar, where natives of Palau had arrived, according to Tornos and (Jesuit Fr. Pedro) Murillo on different occasions. In another arrival, as Tornos had told me, a Japanese vessel, which was welcomed with a major reception, had its [lost passengers] converted to the sacred religion [Christianity]. (Note: Tornos was Archbishop, later Cardinal, Charles Maillard de Tournon, who came around 1700 to settle dispute on Chinese rites.)

"Bantayan is the name of an island [north of Sugbu]; it means 'guard [station]' or 'sentinel [station].' Palau, the name of the island of the Palaus, comes from the word *palai*, meaning 'rice.' Sulu is the name of an island subject to the sultan of Jolo; it comes from Sulug that, in the language of Jolo, which is a dialect of Bisaya, means 'current of [sea] waters.'

"The clear significance that many names of islands and of principal towns in the Philippines were derived from dialects of the Malay language proves that the first residents of these places were Malays. Consequently, the negros (blacks), which common tradition throughout the Philippine Islands had said were the first residents here, could have spoken the Malay language."

Now what side do you take: Bisaya or Tagalog?

SAYING goodbye to his family in Boston before leaving for Manila, Ninoy Aquino (foreground) lightens up the mood for his wife Cory (at left) and well wishers Heherson Alvarez, Jose Calderon, his personal physician Dr. Fernando Bague. PHOTO COURTESY OF HEHERSON ALVAREZ

AMONG hundreds of photos the military turned over to Cory Aquino is this one showing Ninoy being visited by steadfast supporter Sr. Christine Tan, RGS, who came with Maria Feria and Amparo Castro, widow of lawyer Dakila Castro. ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

New witnesses to tell all

From page A1

point because it would reveal from where or what position the gunman had shot the ex-senator.

Gutierrez, however, emphasized that before the case could be reopened, new and credible evidence should be presented.

"So far, what we know about it is what we've read in the newspapers," Gutierrez said of Martinez's statement.

"We will have to carefully evaluate any evidence that is presented to us," she said.

A week from today

The PAO yesterday collected the handwritten affidavits of the 14 soldiers doing time at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa.

"They said they were just used by their superior officers on the day Ninoy was killed. I'll evaluate their statements and decide a week from today if [the case] should go forward," Acosta said.

So far, none of the other convicts has corroborated Martinez's statement that a close Aquino relative was behind the twin murders, Acosta said.

She said that apparently it was only Martinez who knew about this angle but that the PAO would conduct more interviews with the other convicts.

According to Acosta, the case may still be revived despite the 20-year prescription period on the reopening of murder cases.

She said the prescription period did not apply to suspects while they were in hiding, particularly if they were abroad.

Like the DOJ, Malacañang thinks the reopening of the case depended largely on what the witnesses would present.

'Hard to believe'

"We leave it to the the criminal justice system to ferret out the truth and give justice to the Filipino people. We have full faith in the system's strength and fairness," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, said at a briefing.

But Ms Aquino does not seem interested in the possible reopening of the case.

On Martinez's allegation, her spokesperson Deedee Siytangco had this to say: "They have been peddling lies all these years that it was Galman who killed Ninoy. Every August that is what they say, and it's hard to believe. If they have evidence, then they should come out with it. Martinez has now asked the help of the [PAO], so we will see."

Siytangco refused to comment on the speculation that the close Aquino relative being referred to was businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, the former President's first cousin and one of the closest cronies of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"That's hypothetical," Siytangco said. "That is just going to muddle the issue."

Cory's apprehension

To the question of why Ms Aquino did not push the case during her term as President, Siytangco said: "The courts were handling the case at that time. Cory was not like [the dictator Ferdinand] Marcos who would interfere with the judicial process."

A member of the fact-finding body that looked into the case said Ms Aquino's apprehension of being seen as "vindictive" restrained her from getting to the bottom of the issue.

"Cory did not want to be perceived as vindictive, and [given] how she felt, it would have been also unfair of us to ask her to initiate an investigation and unmask the mastermind," former Sen. Ernesto Herrera told the INQUIRER.

But Herrera, a member of the Agrava Commission that Marcos assigned to look into the circumstances surrounding Aquino's assassination, said that unless the mastermind was identified, "the feeling that there is no justice for Ninoy will linger."

Unfortunately, he said, the feeling was "seasonal," and usually timed during the anniversary of the assassination.

"Why are we even surprised that until now we have not uncovered the truth when our interest in the truth is seasonal?" Herrera said.

He said that for every anniversary, a new aspect of the assassination would surface and then "die down after one week."

'Insinuated several times'

Herrera said the allegation that Cojuangco, chair of San Miguel Corp., was the mastermind surfaced several times during the fact-finding work of the Agrava Commission.

"But we never mentioned this in the final report because there was no evidence [and] no testimony. But it was insinuated several times," he said.

Herrera said Martinez's testimony then merely reiterated the military line that it was Galman who shot Ninoy.

"But there were eyewitnesses to the contrary—that Ninoy was shot by one of the five military escorts," Herrera stressed, adding:

"All these military men denied they even knew Galman. In fact, nobody could explain why Galman was there. And now Martinez is saying he brought Galman to the tarmac? So the Agrava Report was right—it was a military conspiracy. Every move they made was geared toward the murder."

The Agrava Report had described the "Galman killed Ninoy" theory as a "gigantic hoax."

No chance to speak

Martinez yesterday still refused to name the close Aquino relative who allegedly masterminded the murder.

But he condemned the handling of the cases of three of his fellow convicts, who, he said, were never allowed to take the witness stand in court and were never given the chance to give their statement on the assassination.

The three were Sergeants Arnulfo Artates, Ruben Aquino and Felizardo Taran, members of the Team Alpha who were among those at the then Manila International Airport when Aquino was killed.

"Why were they convicted when they weren't even able to speak up in court to defend themselves? Shouldn't those convicted be first proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt?" Martinez said. *With reports from Fe Zamora, Ma. Ceres P. Doyo and Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Tanong ng Bayan
INQ TV
ABC
Tuwing Huwebes, 8pm
I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipiliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot. Ang premyo linggo-linggo: isang 21" color TV set!
I-type: INQTV <ang inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, tapos ipadala sa 2910. Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 6 PM. Winner will be identified during the InqTV program: Thursday, 8pm, on ABC.
text 2910
Still no Olympic gold: Saan tayo nagkulang?
Congrats to Luz S. Pangilinan, ng San Simon, Pampanga! Nanalo ka ng 21" Sony color TV!
"ayusin pgsingil s tax pork barrel itigil 2ruan ng tamang pag anak mgkaron political will"

Smile, you're on surveillance camera

From page A1

Receiving the photos from the military when she was President was a surprise for Aquino, the photos having come from an institution that held Ninoy in custody and was suspected of having had something to do with her husband's assassination upon his return from exile in Aug. 21, 1983.

The 16 convicted of the Aquino-Galman murders are all soldiers.

Painful images

Looking at the black and white images must have been also disconcerting, to say the least, if not utterly painful.

Among the previously unpublished photos were those of the bloodied and dead Ninoy taken by military photographers when his body arrived in the military camp. These looked utterly raw, so unlike those taken at the tarmac which, by now, most Filipinos have framed in their memories.

The military photos taken in prison showed the Aquino family during regular visits with Ninoy. Friends who came had to contend with flashbulbs and telephoto lenses. And what about cameras, hidden and unhidden, and bugging devices?

Aquino recalled the first time she came for a conjugal visit. Ninoy's room was about 4 x 5 square yards.

Peeping toms thwarted

"On the first scheduled conjugal visit, I arrived in Fort Bonifacio lugging a new suitcase. Ninoy was surprised and teased me, 'Why the big suitcase? Cory, you're staying here only one night, not one week.'"

"I said nothing and instead opened my suitcase and took out a dark blue towel and some rubber bands. I then asked Ninoy to cover the camera with the towel and secure it with the rubber bands. Then I brought out a dark blue sheet and a roll of masking tape.

"Ninoy and I then proceeded to cover the entire one-way mirror with the sheet and stuck the sheet to the wall using a lot of masking tape. We knew there were electronic bugs to record all our conversations but unfortunately, neither Ninoy nor I knew anything about debugging a room.

"Heaven knows how many hundreds of cassette tapes (were) in the possession of the military, recording all the Ninoy and Cory conversations!"

Copies for friends

Some of the photographs Aquino received from the military were used in the coffeetable book "Ninoy: Ideals and Ideologies." The book contains rare photographs complemented by Ninoy's own words, expressing the ideals that he "fought, lived and died for."

Many of the photographs remain unpublished. But, after her term as President, Aquino went over the pictures and had many of them reproduced so she could send them to friends who were in the photos.

Among these photos was that of Ninoy being greeted by Sr. Christine Tan, RGS, with a buss. With her were activist Maria Feria and Amparo Castro, the wife of lawyer Dakila Castro. *(See photo.)*

Aquino sent a copy each to the women visitors in the photos. Tan, a Good Shepherd nun who lived among the poor and who died last year, was a close friend of Ninoy and Cory and stood by them during the dark days of the dictatorship. Aquino named her one of the drafters of the 1987 Constitution.

"I was not aware that we were being photographed," Feria told the INQUIRER.

"This was at the amphitheater," Mrs. Aquino, a sprightly 71, said of the place where Ninoy received visitors.

How could she forget?

Neither has she forgotten the true friends who visited and stood by them.

The photographs that the military had unearthed for her help her remember.

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Desk Editors Cenon B. Bibe, Ester G. Dipasupil

FUTURE SHOCK. Children play in front the National Power Corporation main office in Quezon City yesterday, where a rally was held to protest new electricity rate increases. JOAN BONDOC

SERVICES NOT AUTHORIZED

Trader, cop 'escorts' in condo arrested

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE SIGHT of men carrying rifles and pistols inside their building prompted alarmed administrators of a condominium in Malate, Manila to call the police for help.

When police took the men into their custody, they turned out to be police officers reportedly protecting a businessman, a tenant at the Legaspi Towers 300 condominium on 2600 Roxas Boulevard corner Pablo Ocampo Street [formerly Vito Cruz] in Malate.

Jamaran Sandag, 27, Ruben Cordova, 44, and Alejandro Mesa Patajo, 32, all Police Officers 1 from the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, were held for carrying high-power firearms inside the condominium.

Also under investigation are businessman Jose Rosete Jr., 32, and his driver Ervin Pool.

Police confiscated an M-16 rifle and 11 loaded magazines, one Galil rifle and three loaded magazines, two 9 mm pistols and two loaded magazines, one rifle grenade, and one ammunition vest from the three officers.

Senior Supt. Juanito de Guzman, acting WPD Director, said the two handguns were service pistols, but they would have to find out if the long firearms were also issued by the PNP.

A .45-cal. handgun was also seized from Rosete.

Worried residents

Police said they had responded to a call for help around 8 a.m. yesterday from the building's administrators. Jimmy Adriano, administrative officer, said that armed men who refused to give their names were seen by their own security force in the condominium.

Adriano said the men had been staying for more than a week at Unit 16-A reportedly owned by Rosanna Imay. Worried residents had also called their attention to the presence of the armed men, Adriano added.

Security men of Sen. Alfredo Lim, who lives on the 20th floor of Legaspi Towers, helped them call up the Western Police District for help.

No go-signal

"Police cannot escort civilians, that's why we arrested them," said Station 9 chief, Supt. George Gaddi. The three could face charges of unauthorized display of firearms, and administrative charges of grave misconduct.

Gaddi said that Rosete, also known as William Morales, "claimed he had money and that he was being threatened." He said that the businessman had also been a SAF civilian agent.

Incoming Philippine National Police chief Edgar Aglipay said only members of the PNP's Police Security and Protection Office could escort private individuals, but only if this is authorized.

He said the PSPO would not give a go-signal until police intelligence officers have verified the threat on a person seeking a police escort. *With Christian Esguerra*

METROBRIEFS

Review Martel case

OUTGOING acting Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said her office would review the criminal complaint that Melissa Mercado Martel filed against her husband Robert "Roby" Puyat-Martel. Senior State Prosecutor Roberto Lao dismissed the case on Aug. 11 for insufficient evidence. Melissa filed the case after her husband allegedly beat her up and shot her in the stomach with a .38-cal. revolver inside their condominium unit at the Ritz Towers in Makati City on Aug. 26, 2003. Lao said he found "no probable cause to indict Martel for the offense charged."

Philip C. Tubeza

Rotary seminars

Rotary International District 3780, consisting of 86 Rotary clubs in Quezon City, will hold its Membership Development Seminar today and on Aug. 28 at the National Irrigation Conference Hall, Edsa, Q.C. Key speakers are District Governor George Harvard, PDG Lina Aurelio, Rotary International Zone VII-B coordinator for membership development, PDG Wilfredo Segovia of District 3830, PDG Melito Salazar and PDG Mario Nery, District Governor-Elect Benjamin Bacorro, all of District 3780. Overall district chairman for membership development is PP Leopoldo "Ody" Santiago of RC New Manila East. The district chairman for membership development seminar is PP Henry Nejal of RC Neopolitan Fairview.

Ninoy TV special

IBC 13, with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, will air a TV special to mark the 21st death anniversary of Sen: Benigno Aquino. "Ninoy: The Legacy Comes of Age" airs today at 9 p.m. with a replay tomorrow at 8 p.m.

Santos; 65

Jesus "Jesse" M. Santos passed away on Aug. 19 at the age of 65. He is survived by wife Belen and children Maribel and Edmunel, Marrisa and Ren, and grand children. His body lies at Arlington Funeral homes in Pasig city. Interment is at 1 p.m. on Sunday, at Loyola Sucat, Parañaque.

Workers rally for lift of ban

ABOUT 3,000 Filipinos seeking jobs in US military camps in Iraq marched near Malacañang yesterday to pressure the government into lifting a ban on sending workers to the Middle Eastern country.

The ban was imposed last month after a Filipino truck driver was abducted by Iraqi insurgents. He was released after Manila pulled out its troops ahead of schedule, as demanded by the kidnappers.

About 4,000 Filipinos currently work in US military camps throughout Iraq.

One of the rally organizers said workers can earn monthly salaries of between US$500 (P27,860) for ordinary jobs and US$1,200 (P66,864) for professionals—wages they can only dream of in the country, where unemployment runs at 13.7 percent and a third of the population lives below US$1 (P55.72) a day.

Chanting "Lift the ban now!" the job seekers marched from the financial district of Makati to Malacañang, but were stopped by a police barbed-wire barricade.

Some were tearful, clutching rosaries as they held placards urging President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to lift the ban.

Labor Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas said the ban will not be lifted soon.

"It is still not safe now, according to our assessment," she told the Associated Press.

Protesters, however, said they were willing to risk their lives.

"We are prepared to die for our families," said protester Corazon Tiglao.

"I am not afraid to go there. Instead, I fear for my children because they might die of hunger because there are no jobs here." *AP*

Camanava Summit offers ray of hope

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE SEARCH for solutions to the perennial problems confronting northern Metro Manila residents has begun.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority officials and representatives from the Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela (Camanava) local governments have informally started the Camanava Summit by laying down the preliminary groundwork of the summit the other day.

The summit is aimed at finding solutions to the common problems of the three cities and one municipality in north Metro Manila, Caloocan City Mayor Enrico Echiverri said.

Traffic, garbage, and squatting problems continue to hound residents of the populous Camanava area.

The area is also the site of the worst floods in the metropolis, even in sunny weather.

After the meeting the other day, the summit would formally start next week, when the mayors and top MMDA officials meet.

Mobile clinic opens doors to QC's poor

By Tina Santos

MEMBERS of the militant party-list group Bayan Muna, leaving behind placards and angry rhetoric, recently unveiled before poor residents in Quezon City a fully-equipped mobile clinic patterned after the ambulances of Rescue 911, a popular emergency response and rescue system in the United States.

The P3.5 million mini-hospital would provide poor residents with accessible medical services such as X-ray, dental procedures, basic medical diagnostic consultations and treatments, said Rep. Satur Ocampo, Bayan Muna national president.

He added that the state-of-the-art mobile clinic can also accommodate patients who need minor surgery, and its personnel can assist mothers in normal childbirth procedures.

Funded from Bayan Muna's share in the Philippine Development Assistance Fund, the clinic is manned by qualified medical professionals, including two doctors, a nurse, a dentist, three midwives and a medical attendant who also serves as driver.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte said the mobile clinic would complement the city's public health centers in providing basic health services to its more than 2.4 million residents.

"The project is an example of how a group like Bayan Muna can directly contribute and significantly benefit the people, particularly the underserved sector," the mayor added.

REP. SATUR Ocampo (left) explains the services offered by the mobile clinic to residents of Sitio Sto. Nino in Tatalon, Quezon City. Funding for the project came from Bayan Muna's share in the Philippine Development Assistance Fund.

Blame the police for Jawo-Yap case fiasco

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

YOU CAN'T blame the prosecutor for dropping the case against the sons of former Sen. Robert Jaworski and a prominent Mandaluyong City businessman. The case concerned the gunfight between the Jaworski scion and the sons of the businessman.

Prosecutor Elenita C. Dimaguila didn't have anything to go on by way of the evidence presented to her by the police.

Police investigators bungled the case—deliberately. They were probably bribed by both parties.

* * *

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes did right in ordering the reinvestigation of the shootout that took place in June.

But I beg to disagree with Reyes when he asked investigators to do their job without fear of retaliation. The investigators were not afraid of retaliation for doing their job. They were afraid of retaliation from Jaworski and the businessman if they didn't do their part of the bargain, that is, make the investigation sloppy.

Reyes should have the investigators investigated. He will find that money changed hands between the investigators and the subjects of the investigation.

* * *

Philippine Tourism Authority general manager Robert Dean Barbers says that the execution of criminals and other low-life in Davao City has increased the number of tourists visiting the city.

When asked if he approved the summary killings, Barbers, son of former senator and also former police officer Robert Barbers, said: "It depends on whether the one being executed deserved it. I'm okay with it."

Barbers shares the general sentiment of the people of Davao City. They know the mastermind behind the extra-judicial executions, called "salvage," but they don't care. They know that the "brains" behind the killings only have the welfare of the people in mind.

* * *

If you are a holder of an MMDA commemorative plate, throw it away. It's fake and you might get arrested for using it.

The maker of the plate, Power Plates Development Concepts, allegedly sold fake Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) plates to unsuspecting buyers.

According to one of the unsuspecting financiers of the fake plates project, he didn't know that the project was never approved by the MMDA.

The financier said that the general manager of the Power Plates Development Concepts fooled him into believing that the company had the blessing of the MMDA.

It was too late when he found out.

Christian Calalang, the general manager of Power Plates, was allegedly fond of dropping people's name.

In fact, according to my source, Calalang dropped this writer's name many times in convincing people to finance his project.

I've never met Calalang.

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RP hopes sink: Thai pug exacts revenge on Brin

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—Outfought, outclassed and outsmarted, light welterweight Romeo Brin is back to where he had just come from—retirement and oblivion.

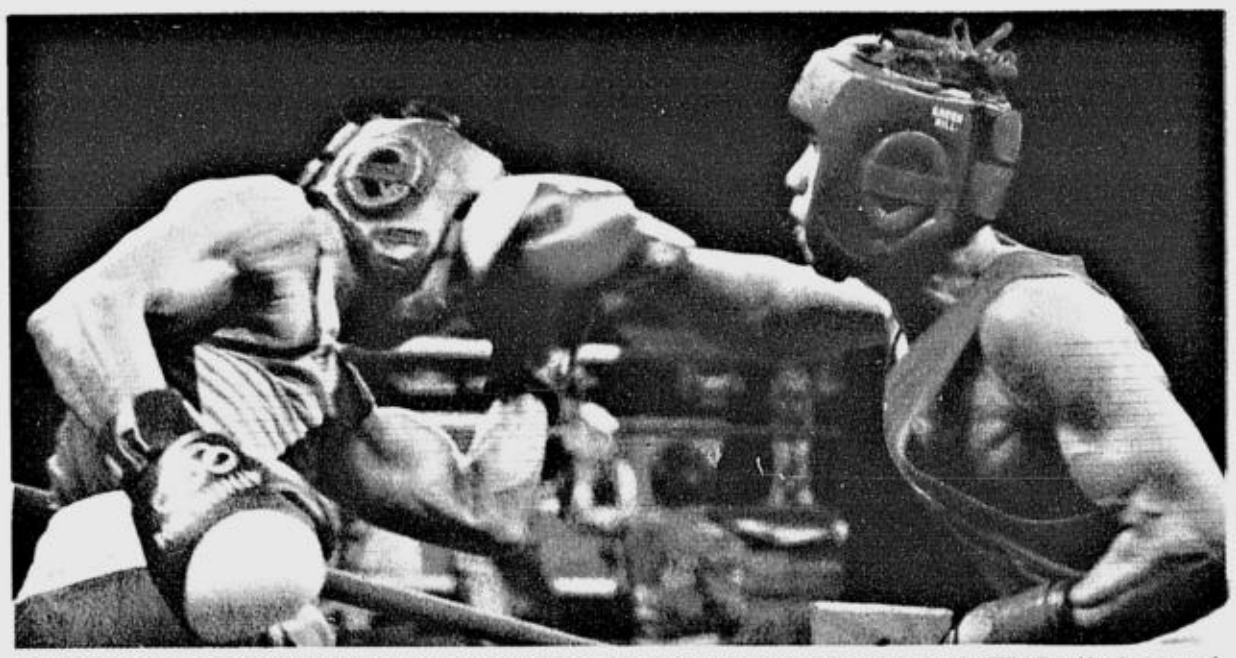
It was a vengeful Thai, Manus Boonjomnong, who turned Brin's Olympic dream into a nightmare Thursday night when he defeated the veteran Filipino with a hit-and-run tactic that produced a points victory in the second round of the boxing competition of the 28th Olympic Games here.

The 29-15 decision vaulted the stylish Thai into the quarterfinals of the 64-kg class and sent the Filipino home with three losses and a lone victory in three stints in the Olympics.

"*Naunahan ako sa diskarte. Tapos tinakbuhan na ako* (He outsmarted me first. Then he started running away)," lamented a frustrated Brin after the fight.

The heartbreaking defeat left only one Filipino, light flyweight Harry Tañamor, to carry the country's medal hopes in the boxing competition at the Peristeri Olympic Boxing Hall here. He will fight Korea's Hong Moo Won Saturday night.

Two other Filipinos—middleweight Christopher Camat and flyweight Violito Payla—failed to survive the first round.



OUTCLASSED: Romeo Brin (left) is tagged in the head by a right cross from Manus Boonjumnong of Thailand in the second round of their light welterweight fight in Athens on Thursday. Brin trailed the Thai all along and lost, 29-15. AFP

Elsewhere in the Games Friday, Miguel Mendoza closed out the unremarkable performance of the Philippines in the swimming competition at the Olympic Aquatic Center with a poor swim in his favorite event—the 1500-meter freestyle.

He finished dead last in his heat with a clocking of 16 minutes and 26.52 seconds—way off his personal best of 15:49.55 and the Southeast Asian Games record of 15:43.27. He was also dead last among 34 entries.

The 31-year-old Brin, who defeated Sweden's Patrick Bogere on points in the first round on Sunday for his first ever win in the Olympics, had not dreamt of coming to Athens to the Games until this year.

After almost two decades of amateur competition, including undistinguished stints in the Atlanta (1996) and Sydney (2000) Games, Brin had gone into retirement in Puerto Princesa where he began a career as coach.

But he was called to action and came out of retirement when the Philippine entry in the light welterweight division was

RP HOPES/ A24

Tañamor fights Korean today

ATHENS—Light flyweight Harry Tañamor is the last man standing among the four Filipino fighters in the 28th Olympic Games here.

He plans to stay that way Saturday night when he goes up against a dangerous Korean in the second round of the Olympic boxing competition at the Peristeri Olympic Boxing Hall. The fight is scheduled for 9 p.m. (2 a.m. Sunday in Manila).

With the three other Filipinos now eliminated—middleweight Christopher Camat and flyweight Violito Payla in the first round and light welterweight Romeo Brin in the second round—Tañamor has been left to carry the load for the Philippines on his pint-sized frame.

He fights Hong Moo Won, the tough Korean who beat him earlier this year in the final of the Olympic qualifying tournament in Karachi, Pakistan. Both Tañamor and Hong earned their Olympic berths in

TAÑAMOR/ A24

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SPORTSWATCH

Cash rewards await Vertek, Gabito

NEWLY elected Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association chair Alipio Fernandez and project director Armand Sanchez have pledged cash rewards for Eduardo "Vertek" Buenavista and Lerma Bulaultan-Gabito if either of them breaks the national record in the Athens Olympics. Fernandez, the commissioner of Immigration, and Sanchez, the governor of Batangas, agreed to put up P10,000 each as incentive prizes. "I'm sure both Buenavista and Gabito will be glad to hear the news," said athletics president Go Teng Kok who is flying to Athens to be with the athletes on Sunday. Buenavista, a native of Sto. Nino, South Cotabato, is entered in the marathon with a national record of two hours 18 minutes and 44 seconds. Gabito, an Army staff sergeant, equaled the seven-year-old 6.56-meter long jump mark of Elma Muros in the 2004 Asian Grand Prix last month in Colombo.

Aguilar: To be best, ride with the best

AGUILAR

ASIAN motocross champion Glenn Aguilar came back from the FIM World Motocross Championships in Numur, Belgium, a better rider. Aguilar, the region's sole representative to the motocross festival considered as "the Formula One of two-wheels," said competing against the world's greatest riders is already a big achievement. Caltex Revtex's Aguilar, who was chosen by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association to represent Asia to the Olympics of motocross, said the experience was very fulfilling. "To become the best, you have to ride with the best," he said. The rider called the Revtex Rocket pitted skills against 84 of the best riders from Europe, Africa, Japan, the United States and South America. He said the Filipino can be at par with the world's best given constant exposure to international races and better machine parts. "I used the same motorbike the others were riding. The difference lay in the technical specifications. *Yung* suspension *pa lang n'ung* bike *na pinahiram sa akin* is already worth $7,000 (P392,000) *na*," said Aguilar, who is also backed by Sidi Boots, Renthal, Oakley, Flamboyant Construction, HJC Helmets and Pro Grip.

Visayas taekwondo kicks off Sunday

TAEKWONDO jins from the Visayas plunge into action when the Petron Visayas Taekwondo championships kick off on Sunday at the Holy Name University Dampas campus gym in Tagbilaran City, Bohol. "This is part of the PTA's goal of bringing taekwondo to the countryside," said Robert Aventajado, president of the Philippine Taekwondo Association. PTA vice president Sung Chong Hong said PTA clubs and members throughout the Visayan region will dispute honors in six division in the Petron-backed tournament. Also supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, action will start at 9 a.m.

PSC's De Luna RP archery seminar guest

NAGA CITY—Commissioner Ambrosio De Luna of the Philippine Sports Commission will open the four-day Bicol regional coaching and judging seminar in archery on Aug. 28 at the Camarines Sur National High School Pavilion. De Luna will also be the guest speaker during the seminar organized by the Naga City Spots Council in cooperation with the National Archery Association of the Philippines, said Pedro Lee, the council's overall chair. The seminar opens at the Camarines Sur National High School before the training segment proceeds to the archery facilities of the Naga City Sports Complex. About 300 archery coaches and officials have confirmed participation, said DepEd regional director Teresita D. Naz.

PBA chair all praises for SSC-Cavite gym

THE PBA may soon have an alternate out-of-town venue in the brand-new San Sebastian College-Recoletos Gymnasium in Cavite City. No less than PBA chair Buddy Encarnado got a first hand feel of the 4,000-seat facility that opened last Wednesday when his Sunday Club team played against the OAR Priests in an exhibition game. "First-class. Better than some of the current PBA venues," said Encarnado of the gym. "I don't see any reason why we shouldn't play there." Cavite City mayor Totl Paredes and SSC-Cavite president Fr. Joseph Granada presided over the ribbon-cutting ceremonies also graced by SSC-Cavite vice president for finance and athletic moderator Amadeo Lucero, Cavite City vice mayor Tino Chua, SSC Baycats coach Edgar Macaraya and sportsman Danny Espiritu.

More stories on the Athens Olympics on pages A24-A25

Just 3 RP swim marks

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.

MIGUEL Mendoza swims in a heat of the 1500-meter freestyle. He wound up dead last. AP

ATHENS—Officials saw a silver lining in the dark clouds hovering over the Philippine swimming team following a disappointing performance by the Filipinos at the Olympic Aquatic Center here.

On the final day of swimming competition in the 28th Olympic Games here, Miguel Mendoza capped the disappointment by finishing dead last in the 1500-meter freestyle heats Friday.

"Words can't describe how embarrassed I was with the performance," said the 22-year-old Mendoza, the only Olympic veteran in the five-man swimming delegation here.

"This is a young team. This will be the nucleus of the Philippine team in the SEA Games," said Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, himself a former Olympic swimmer.

Although he had obviously expected more from the swimmers, Buhain described the Athens experience as a "coming out party" for the Philippine team to the 2005 SEA Games.

"They're all young and blooming, and they'll be ready next year," Buhain said, referring to the Philippines' hosting of the Southeast Asian Games.

Of the Filipino swimmers, Fil-Am James Walsh is the youngest at 17.

Jaclyn Pangilinan, also a Fil-Am, is 18, Miguel Molina 20, and Raphael Chua and Mendoza 22.

Chito Rivera, secretary general of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (Pasa), said the Olympic experience will give the youthful Filipinos the confidence to perform well in the regional games.

"Having performed at the highest level of competition, this team will have a high level of confidence for the SEA Games," said Rivera.

"They performed well, but the expected Philippine records did not happen," he said.

Only two Filipino swimmers here broke Philippine records.

Pangilinan clocked 1:12:47 and 2:33.38 in the women's 100- and 200-m breaststroke, respectively, and Molina timed 2:19.19 in the men's 200-m breast.

Molina eclipsed the 12-year-old record of Lee Concepcion of 2:20.37. Pangilinan improved her own Philippine records of 1:12.82 and 2:35.01 in her events. She also improved her personal best of 2:34.00 in the 200-m breast.

Chua and Walsh fared badly in their respective events.

Chua clocked 1:06.37 in the 100-m breast, missing his personal best of 1:04.93 and Walsh clocked 2:06.76 in the 200-m butterfly, which was two seconds off his personal record of 2:04.13.

But the most disappointed was Mendoza, the veteran of the team.

In finishing dead last in his heat and among the 34 starters in the 1500-m freestyle, he clocked 16 minutes and 26.52 seconds—way off his personal best of 15:49.55 and the Southeast Asian Games record of 15:43.27.

Mendoza had high hopes of a good performance in Friday's event following a satisfying performance in the 400-m free on Sunday, which he had treated as a warm-up swim.

"I was well rested and feeling great this morning," Mendoza recalled.

"But the moment I hit the water, I had nothing. I felt heavy in the water. I was OK in the first 100 meters, but after that, everything was downhill."

Obet remains as Philsoc chair—GMA

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PAGDANGANAN

ROBERTO "Obet" Pagdanganan will remain chair of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc).

This after Pagdanganan, the outgoing Tourism secretary, was told by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo that the country's SEA Games hosting "is still his responsibility."

The President gave Pagdanganan the assurance during yesterday's courtesy call of the successful Filipino jungolfers in Malacañang.

Pagdanganan, replaced at Tourism by Cebu Rep. Joseph Ace Durano, was given a new job as chair and president of the Philippine International Trading Corp.

"What we have started will be pursued with more vigor. I thank the President for her confidence in our ability to rally the nation behind our athletes and the sports community," said Pagdanganan.

He also assured the President that the country remains on course to capture the overall championship in the 2005 SEA Games.

The President veered away from the practice of having the Tourism czar as the Philsoc chief, as was the case in the country's two previous SEAG hostings.

The President's decision was welcomed by sports officials, led by Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, who said the decision is an indication of how focused the Chief Executive is in her desire for a successful SEA Games next year.

"Secretary Pagdanganan has been moving toward establishing the quality and discipline required to make the Games a success," said Buhain.

Also backing up Pagdanganan's reinstatement was athletics chief Go Teng Kok, who cited Pagdanganan's "understanding of the requirements in hosting an event (SEAG) of such magnitude."

Honor lost in Olympiad

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

STILL badly shaken, the folks continue to talk about it, wondering how the hell did it happen.

The one shocking statement that keeps cropping up is, what, Puerto Rico beat America?

America here is the US Basketball Team, which made history in the Athens Olympics on Tuesday by losing to Puerto Rico.

It's like seeing National U, the UAAP's favorite whipping boy, defeat Ginebra San Miguel, the 2004 PBA champion, on primetime TV.

It would have been all right if Puerto Rico's victory had come by chance. Like, a buzzer-beating triple from mid-court by Carlos Arroyo, maybe, a la Jerry West in another era. Or Tim Duncan doing the marginal put-back not for America but for Puerto Rico as time was expiring.

No, none of that, fellas.

The win came by a rout, 92-73. No accident there.

Listen to Bill Plaschke, described by Percy Della as one of the heirs apparent of Jim Murray at the Los Angeles Times: "We have forgotten how to play our game. Puerto Rico scored 92 points with passing and defense and purpose. The US scored 73 points with bricks and bombast."

He was even kinder than Noah.

For, the truth of the matter was, the Americans treated the game as garbage that evening. Know why? I've got three reasons.

One, they showed utter disrespect for the Puerto Ricans; you look down on the enemy, you are bound to suffer the consequences.

Two, they played blinded by the thought that no team in this planet—let alone "lowly" Puerto Rico—could beat an NBA selection; arrogance is the mother of failure.

Three, since this was pro bono, gratis et amore, why would I, a certified NBA star, kick ass just to beat a B Team? Who said beating Puerto Rico was big deal? Charity, if not humility, must always reside in the heart.

Not since NBA stars started Olympic play did a US Team lose in the Olympiad. And this one's only the third defeat for America in 68 years of Olympic stint.

Who is to blame?

Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal or even 2004 NBA MVP Kevin Garnett for staying home?

Arroyo, quoted by Bill Plaschke, has an answer for that: "If any team can pull it together in two weeks, it's the United States."

What happened instead was, the NBA stars had pulled themselves down the Bermuda Triangle with their egos tied down their necks. They weren't prima donnas but they, sure, played like they were prima donnas.

Will the hurt last forever, or just linger for a while?

I don't know. What I do know is, this game unmasked what has long been the consensus of many: The NBA stars aren't interested that much in the glitter of Olympic gold. The glory that was Rome, they seem to equate with the Parthenon of Athens. Why, which is more important, Olympism or tourism?

It's different when the stars of the sport treat the gold medal as a mere piece of metal. Worthless almost. To them, medal or no medal, makes no difference. What matters more is the click of canon than the glitz of gold. They lose one game, they shrug their shoulders and next say, "No big deal." You win some, you lose some.

Dignity is lost in megabuck adidas endorsements. Pride is drowned in oversized NBA shorts. Who needs honor when you are not in Iraq?

The Americans might still emerge winners in the end, who knows. But the setback to Puerto Rico in glorious Greece is one debacle that throws us back to the Christian-versus-lion era again. It was a mismatch all right but still, it was always a delight to know that the lion had to fight tooth and nail before he could savor his lunch. Fully.

If that should sound Greek to Iverson & Co., I do not have the answer.

Pool stars guests in Puyat billiards tilt today

RECENTLY crowned World Pool champion Alex Pagulayan as well as Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Leonardo "Dodong" Andam and Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat will be part of the gallery when the Pocket Billiards Association of Makati concludes its 2nd Don Gonzalo Puyat Memorial Cup billiards tournament today. The four-day tournament, with rotation as the mode of play, started last Aug. 13 and pitted about 100 PBAM members grouped into four classes in gut-wrenching matches. PBAM president Carlos "Boy" Silva said leading contenders for the champion's trophies are Jun Briones and Ken Escano in the Super O category, Mon Uy and Samson Yu in Class O, James Lui and Milo Audalis in Class A and Joy Roble and Tina Hipolito in Class B.

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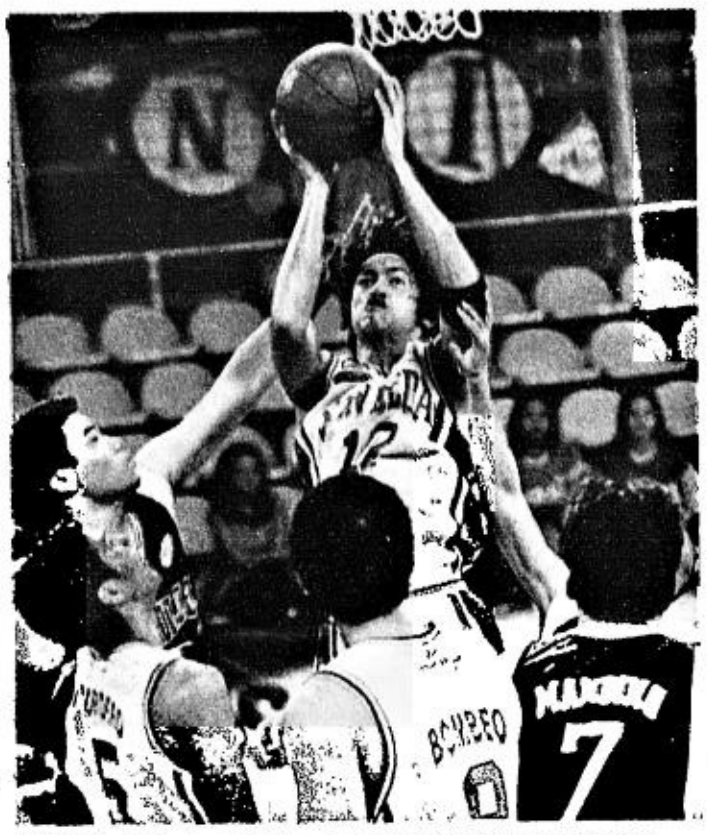


JAMES Carlo Hudencial of San Beda uncorks a jumper against St. Benilde during their NCAA game yesterday. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Cards nose out Knights

League deplores TRO on Letran player's suspension

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE MAPUA Cardinals fought for survival and emerged with a 62-60 shocker over the Letran Knights yesterday in the 80th NCAA senior basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

San Beda also kept its Final Four hopes alive after the Lions triumphed over the St. Benilde Blazers, 83-77, in overtime.

The results led to a four-way deadlock for first place among Letran, San Sebastian, Perpetual Help and Philippine Christian with 7-4 records, while Mapua and San Beda tied for second with 6-5 cards.

The Cardinals, who trailed by 13 points at halftime, opened the third quarter with a 17-2 charge for a 44-42 edge and went on take a 62-55 advantage in the final minute.

Ronjay Enrile brought Letran within two at 62-60, but Christian Guevarra blocked Enrile's three-pointer in the final seconds.

Letran's loss came after an unprecedented development that saw the NCAA Management Committee (Mancom) abiding by a temporary restraining order to lift the one-game suspension on Letran's Frederick Rodriguez.

"This is a sad day for amateur sports, for after 80 years of existence, Letran, being one of the oldest members, and having won many championships, has questioned the juridical personality of the NCAA," said NCAA Mancom chair Michael del Mundo.

Executive Judge Enrico Lanzanas of Branch 97 Manila Regional Trial Court issued the TRO Thursday. Mancom filed a Motion for Reconsideration yesterday, but the approval didn't come before the 4 p.m. game.

Letran, however, decided not to play Rodriguez due to a sore knee. Rodriguez was suspended for hitting Perpetual's Dean Apor last Aug. 13. Mancom added that it has yet to decide if sanctions would be meted on Letran.

In junior play, the Cubs clobbered the Greenies, 75-49.

The scores:

Second Game (Srs)

SAN BEDA 83—Cordero 23, Paterno 13, Bombeo 11, Bughao 11, Angeles 8, Arbole 5, Timonera 4, Hudencial 4, Maggay 2, Aljamal 2.

ST. BENILDE 77—Sagad 23, Abad 13, Manding 11, Morial 8, Orbeta 6, Robles 4, Sanidad 4, Devaras 4, Pagulo 3.

Quarters: 18-25, 30-38, 54-56, 69-69, 83-77.

Third Game (Srs)

MAPUA 62—Gonzales 15, Sta. Maria 13, Tiongco 10, Veranga 9, Salud 7, Del Rosario 4, Guevarra 2, Sumalinog 2.

LETRAN 60—Enrile 14, Aban 9, Bautista 9, Aldave 7, Andaya 6, Piñera 4, Anabo 4, Alcaraz 3, Santos 2, Realista 2.

Quarters: 18-21, 27-40, 49-47, 62-60.

Tams face resurgent Warriors

JUST a month ago, no one imagined the youthful University of the East Warriors would actually sow fear on the defending champions.

Now the Far Eastern Tamaraws admit to feeling the pressure when they battle the Warriors today in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Unlike in the pre-season when UE hardly merited a second look, FEU coach Koy Banal said the Warriors now spell trouble for most teams.

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	8	1
FEU	7	2
UE	5	4
La Salle	5	4
Adamson	4	5
UST	4	5
UP	3	6
NU	0	9

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
11:30 a.m.—NU vs UST (Jrs)
*2 p.m.—NU vs UST (Srs)
*4 p.m.—UE vs FEU (Srs)
Live on Studio 23

"This is a different story. *Tingnan ninyo naman yung mga tinumba ng* UE (Look at the teams UE felled)," said Banal, who is going for a repeat win over rookie coach Dindo Pumaren and the Warriors at 4 p.m.

The Warriors, who are tied for third with La Salle at 5-4, surprised everyone with their giant-slaying ways, which included back-to-back wins over the Archers and the Ateneo Eagles.

In the other senior match, the University of Santo Tomas Tigers face the slumping National University Bulldogs at 2 p.m.

Despite a recent loss to the University of the Philippines, Banal doesn't see UE losing steam. Even the fact that the Tamaraws clobbered the Warriors in the first round, 89-61, is irrelevant to him now.

"Their aggressiveness is up-tempo, and we have to at least match it. We're coming off a big game (against Adamson last Thursday) and we only had one day of preparation," said Banal.

Meanwhile, UST is recovering from a bad loss against Ateneo, 77-62, while NU is coming off an even more severe beating against La Salle, 80-51. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Tacloban 21-K qualifying run set tomorrow

LAST year's winner Edgardo Lapasigue and runner-up Demetrio Rosales are expected to battle it out for the men's title again when the Eastern Visayas elimination run of the 28th National Milo Marathon kicks off tomorrow in Tacloban City.

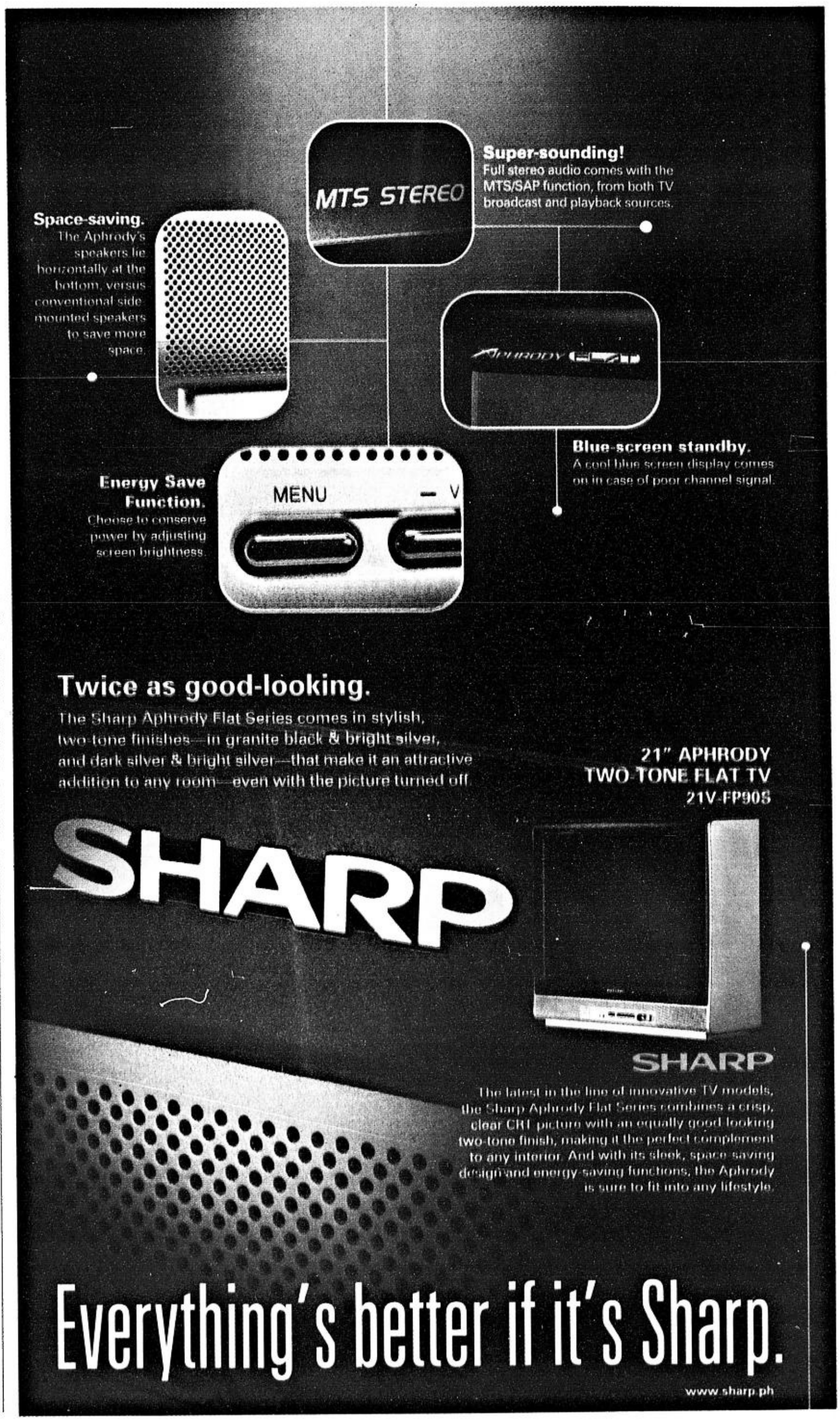
Lapasigue and Rosales as well as women's defending champion Camila Luterte are among about 6,500 runners to be sent off by Rep. Remedios Petilla and Gov. Jericho Petilla.

The bulk of the runners are actually vying in the 5-K fun run and the 3-K kiddies race, side events of the 21-K qualifying run held in partnership with Bayview Park Manila, Globe Handy Phone, Cebu Pacific, adidas and the Department of Tourism.

The top three finishers in the qualifying run will advance to the 42-K National Finals slated Nov. 14 in Metro Manila, said local organizer Dr. Lucrecio Calo.

The first 10 finishers in each group will bring home trophies, medals and cash prizes amounting to P144,600 courtesy of Milo, which is celebrating its 40th year in the Philippines.

The women's race is expected to be another walk in the park for perennial winner Luterte who, at 40 years old, still lords it over her much younger rivals. Last year, Luterte finished the race more than 32 minutes ahead of her nearest pursuer.



Cink grabs one-stroke lead in NEC invitational

AKRON, Ohio—Free from the burden of trying to make the Ryder Cup team, Stewart Cink looked at ease Thursday on a marathon day at the NEC Invitational that ended with his name atop the leaderboard.

Three days after he was a captain's pick for the Ryder Cup, Cink made five birdies on his first 10 holes on soggy Firestone South to lead by one shot over Rod Pampling when the rain-delayed first round was suspended by darkness.

"I was playing really well out there," Cink said. "And with these conditions . . . it's playing vulnerable."

Steady overnight rain, which got heavier Thursday morning, made the fairways so soft and wet that players were allowed to lift, clean and place their ball for the first time at Firestone since 1997.

The bad news?

With a five-hour delay at the start and another hour late in the afternoon, only 16 players in the 76-man field finished their round. The rest will return at 7:30 a.m. Friday.

Pampling was 4 under through 12 holes.

Tiger Woods had the lead to himself until he finished with back-to-back bogeys, both times missing 8-foot putts, to fall two shots off the lead. It was hard to tell what made Woods more upset—ending his long day with bogeys, or having to return Friday morning to play one hole. He was 3 under through 17.

STEWART Cink watches his tee shot on the 17th hole. AFP

"They didn't start on time," Woods said, referring to the one-hour delay in the afternoon. "They started seven minutes late, or we would have been done with the 17th and on 18 right now. That's just part of playing the tour in summertime. You're going to get some bad weather."

Woods might need to win this week to remain No. 1 in the world ranking, and Firestone is one of his favorite tracks. He won three straight times, has never finished worse than fifth and has never shot worse than 67 the first round.

"I'm just (throwing) away too many shots out there," Woods said. He was tied with Zach Johnson (12 holes) and Carlos Franco (11 holes) at 3 under.

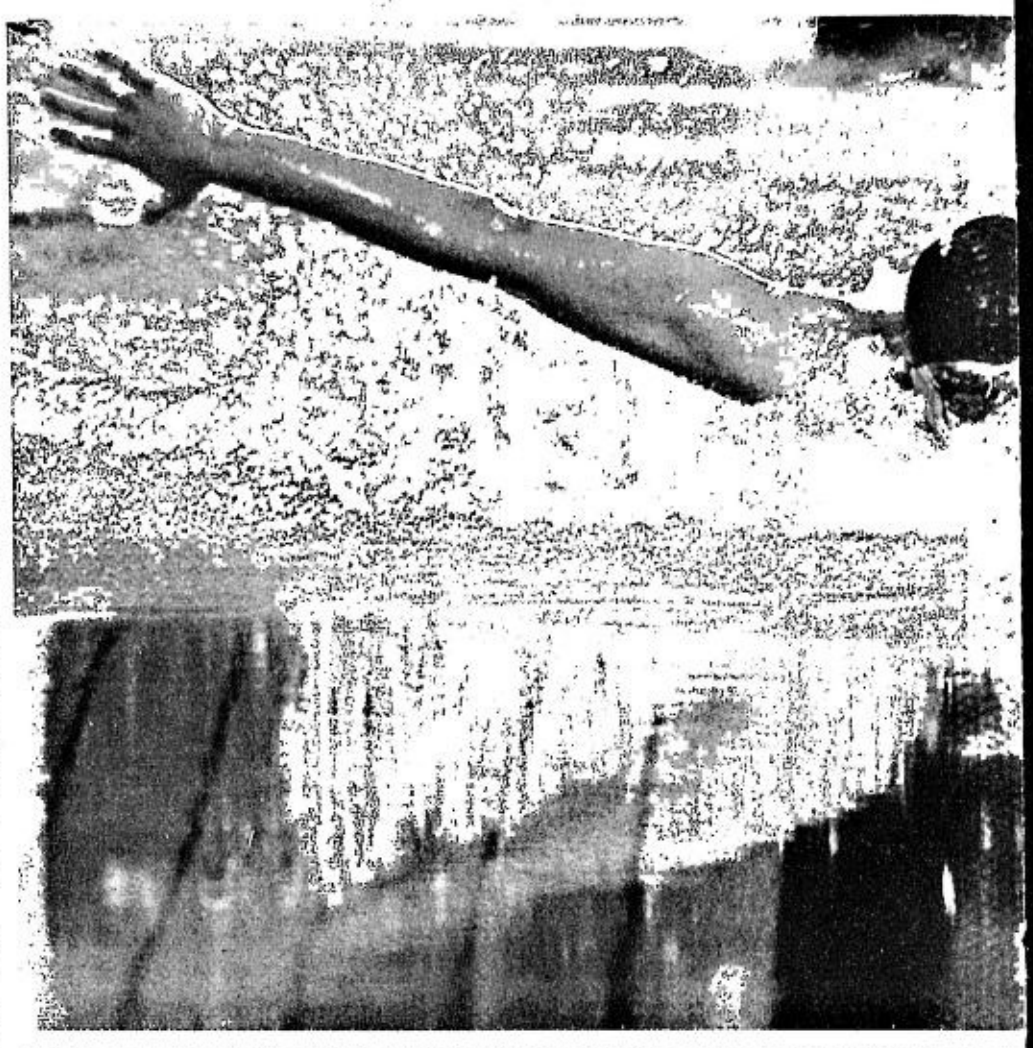
PGA champion Vijay Singh only has to finish ahead of Woods this week to become No. 1 for the first time in his career. Singh bogeyed two of the first three holes, then chopped up the trees on the right side of the ninth fairway to make double bogey and shoot 73.

"It's the least thing on my mind," Singh said. "I want to have a good tournament, and then evaluate the ranking at the end of the week."

Ernie Els also has a chance to reach No. 1. He was at 1 under through 11 holes.

Cink didn't seem to mind the weather delays. He has played well his last three tournaments, enough for Hal Sutton to pick him for the Ryder Cup and leave Cink to worry only about playing good golf.

"I'm glad to be picked, but it really is more of an indication of the way I've been playing," Cink said. *AP*



IAN Crocker of the vaunted US swimming team tries to add to the gold-medal haul in the 100-m butte

Phelps, Peirso

ATHENS, Greece—Aaron Peirsol waved his arms in disbelief, then tried to figure out what he did wrong.

The most dominant backstroker in the world had somehow made a mistake that cost him a sure gold medal. Hours later, the word came down: Peirsol's victory would stand.

On a night Americans dominated at the Olympic pool, Peirsol's disputed victory in the 200-meter backstroke was the most memorable—and convoluted. First, he was disqualified for making an illegal turn. Then, his win was restored, just in time for him to have the gold draped around his neck. More protests were filed but his victory was reaffirmed.

No one disputed another victory by Michael Phelps, who secured his legacy as one of the greatest swimmers in Olympic history by winning his fourth gold medal Thursday.

For good measure, Amanda Beard captured the first individual gold of her illustrious career, in the 200-m breaststroke. Only a victory by Australian Jodie Henry in the women's 100-m freestyle prevented an American sweep.

Peirsol cruised to an easy win in his signature event—he hasn't lost in almost four years—but was shockingly disqualified. About a half-hour later, the decision was overturned and he walked out to receive his second gold medal.

"Man, it was a roller coaster," said Peirsol, who earlier won the 100 backstroke. "I feel bad for everybody in that field. It was a weird call. I'm happy it was overturned, though."

Austria's Markus Rogan, who finished more than two seconds behind Peirsol, was briefly feted as the gold medalist. When the decision was changed, he didn't seem too

JUNGOLF WINNERS
President Macapagal-Arroyo (right) poses with youngsters from the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines who won in recent international tournaments. From left, Miguel Tabuena, Dottie Ardina, Raymund Gonzales Jr., Allenby Jiro Ramos, Marcel Puyat, Justino Dy and Janelle Buen. VAL HANDUMON

Pro golf hopefuls won't get licenses

THE GAMES and Amusements Board yesterday declared as "illegal" the qualifying tournament recently held by a faction of the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines board at the Mercedes Golf Club in Bogo, Cebu.

GAB officer Jess Villanueva, in a hand-written letter to a representative of the other faction of the PGAP board, said that no permit to hold the event was issued by the government agency that oversees professional sports in the country.

Villanueva added that the GAB will not issue a license to the players who took part in the qualifying.

The trouble in the NGAP has developed into a legal battle with the majority group in the PGAP filing contempt charges against former president Romulo Negrido, directors Vic Santia and Willy de Tomas, and Bogo Golf Club owner Antonio Teves for going on with the qualifying tournament despite a temporary restraining order.

The court has given the respondents five days to appear or face the risk of arrest.

Five Koreans, who paid US$500 each, and seven Filipinos played in the qualifying event for professionals last Aug. 11 to 13.

A temporary restraining order was issued last Aug. 13 but the respondents somehow managed to go on with the tournament after Teves reportedly barred the sheriffs from serving the TRO.

The TRO was supposed to be served after the first nine holes of the third round, instead, Santia and De Tomas ordered the players to continue the final nine and the last 18, which was originally scheduled the following day. *Musong R. Castillo*

Pagunsan yields slot to Putra

By Musong R. Castillo

UNABLE to return home yesterday, Juvic Pagunsan was dropped from the national golf team to the Putra Cup next week in Indonesia.

The country's top amateur player was informed of this development by NGAP executive director Jake Ayson in an overseas call to the US where Pagunsan had overstayed for still unknown reasons after competing in the US Amateurs early this week.

"He took it in stride," Ayson said, adding that Pagunsan and the NGAP had an agreement before he left that if he is not back on the 20th, he would be replaced.

Taking Pagunsan's place in the RP team leaving for Jakarta today was Boyet Saragoza, who placed second behind Michael Bibat in the recent Putra Cup qualifier for the No. 4 spot.

Jun Bernis, the reigning DHL Amateur and RP Amateur champion, and Marvin Dumandan lead the team headed by non-playing captain Jun Galindez, coach Roger Retuerto and Ayson, the delegation head.

Had Pagunsan survived the two-day qualifying at the US Amateurs, he would have continued in the match play phase while yielding his Putra Cup slot to Saragoza. But he fared poorly in the qualifying, shooting 80-78. Pagunsan played his second round on Aug. 18, giving him enough time to book a flight for home.

Still, the Filipinos are confident going into the annual event also known as the Southeast Asian Golf Team Championship starting on Aug. 24 at the Imperial Golf Club.

CARLY Patterson of the US performs a routine on the balance beam on the way to the gold medal. RE

Wave of young talents all set to make Olympic track mar

ATHENS, Greece—Move over Marion. Out of the way Haile.

A new wave of talent will be on display when track and field takes center stage at the Olympic Games.

Opening night will feature 22-year-old Ethiopian Keninisa Bekele in the 10,000 meters. Next week, he will go in the 5,000, attempting to complete a distance-running double that even his famous countryman, Haile Gebrselassie, never accomplished.

The quest is a reasonable one, since Bekele broke Gebrselassie's world records in both events in a nine-day span this year.

Gebrselassie will run in the 10,000, too, seeking a third consecutive Olympic title in the event despite an Achilles' tendon injury.

"I was very close to pulling out," said Gebrselassie, who is seeking to become the first athlete to win the same running event at three Olympics. "Even if I am not doing very well, I feel I need to be there."

Marion Jones will not be on hand to defend her 100-m gold medal in the preliminaries of the event on Friday. She failed to qualify for the event at the US Olympic trials. *AP*

ITALY'S Ivano Brugnetti wins gold in the men's 20-K walk.

Wack Wack ladies pace Luzvimin golf

WACK WACK came up with balanced scoring to sweep past Sta. Elena and grab the lead on the second day of the 12th Luzvimin Invitational women's golf tournament yesterday at the Cebu Country Club course.

Elvira Liboro led the way with 49 points, Stephanie Yu had 48, Liza Lopez a 43 and Leanna Farrales a 41 under the Molave scoring system as Wack Wack rallied from third to first in the Diamond division with a 347 total.

Sta. Elena dropped to second place with a 344 aggregate on Carina Ricamonte's 46 points, Therese Dabao's 42, Vinice Godio's 41 and Rio Co's 36 in the annual event organized by the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines.

Lora Roberto amassed 51 points on a one-over stroke play score while Carmelette Villaroman added 47 but Southwoods still lost ground as Arlette Dizon only contributed a 34 and Claudette Garcia had 32. Southwoods dropped to third with 333 points.

Host Cebu County Club drew 40 points from Kathlyn Uy and Jyra Wong and remained fourth with 318.

Villamor kept the lead in the Ruby Division with 307 as Cynthia Octaviano scored 45 points, Jo Barredo 43, Carol Nielson 38 and Ting Yupangco 35.

Glimada flounders as Bayron gains tie with 7

DAVAO—Former national player Jay Bayron took advantage of a faltering windup by little-known Ranil Glimada yesterday to forge a tie for the championship division lead after the second round of the fourth elimination leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Apo Golf Club course here.

Bayron carded a one-under-par 71 and actually just exchanged scores with the upset-minded Glimada, who bogeyed the last two holes for a 74. In the first round Thursday, it was Bayron who had a 74 and Glimada a 71.

Both Bayron and Glimada had 36-hole totals of 145 going into the weekend play with Jay's younger brother, Rufino, in third place but far behind at 150 after a 72.

Meanwhile, Junjun Grandeza captured the Class A crown by nipping Joel Yamyamin on the third extra hole of a sudden-death playoff. Grandeza (77-77) and Yamyamin (78-76) ended regulation play tied at 154.

Emerging as the ladies' division winners of the event also backed by Tokyo Tokyo, Gatorade, Philippine Airlines, adidas Taylor Made, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport, and [illegible]gin-E were Chihiro Ikeda in Clas[illegible] Imee Garcia in Class B and Mimi[illegible]son in Class C. Killer-Bee, Jam 8[illegible] Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT[illegible] 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

Bayron birdied the third, ni[illegible] and 11th holes against a bogey[illegible] No. 8 to seize the upperhand fr[illegible] Glimada, the 23-year-old cousi[illegible] top pro Cassius Casas.

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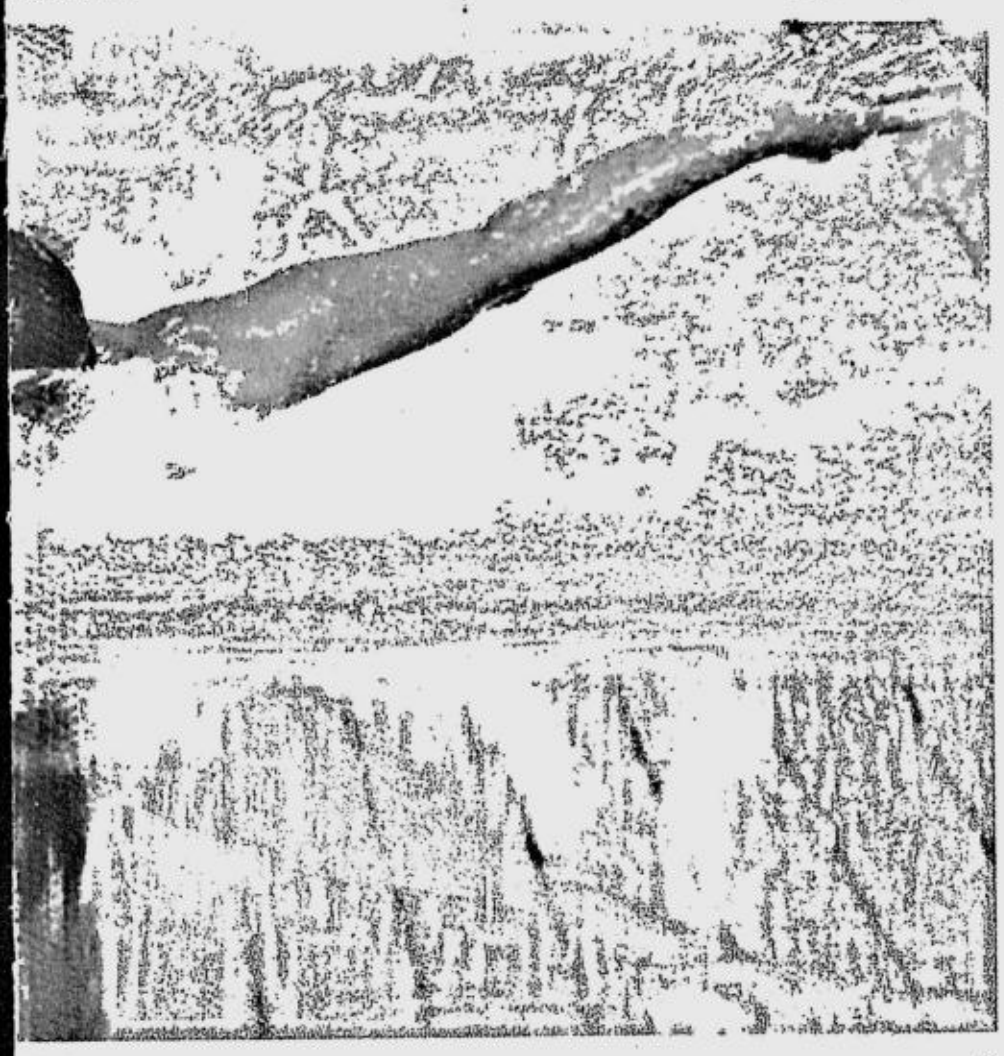


AFP

And now the hard part: US five plays Lithuania

ATHENS—A struggling United States basketball team coming off two narrow escapes and an epic loss faces its toughest Olympic test yet Saturday against unbeaten Lithuania, which is playing like the team to beat for gold.

The Lithuanians came within a last-second 3-point miss of knocking off the Americans in a 2000 Sydney Olympics semifinal. With a deep lineup of quick, tall players with skilled outside shooters, they have marched to a 3-0 start.

"Anybody who appreciates our sport appreciates the way they play," US coach Larry Brown said. "We're in for a huge challenge." Still smarting from a 92-73 loss to Puerto Rico in their Olympic opener, the US squad trailed most of the way in an 89-79 victory over Australia after host Greece tested the National Basketball Association stars before falling, 77-71.

But US players insist they have found their way, improving with every game and learning how to attack rivals' difficult zone defense despite struggling with poor outside shooting.

"We're fine now," NBA Rookie of the Year LeBron James said. "I see it. I hope everybody else is seeing it." The Lithuanians, leading preliminary Group B at 3-0, are coming off a 98-76 rout of Greece after subduing giant killer Puerto Rico, 98-90, and struggling past Angola, 78-73, in their opener.

"We're not going to think about our game against the USA. We're just going to play," said Lithuanian forward and NBA player Darius Songaila. "We know each other and as such, we know how to play as a team together." That is a luxury the US squad, assembled a month ago, does not have.

"We haven't been together that long so it's like a crash course," said forward Richard Jefferson. "You cram for it. And you have to make an A-plus." Lithuania has done just that, sparked by top scorer Ramunas Siskauskas with solid support from veterans Saulius Stombergas, Songaila and guard Sarunas Jasiekevicius. Their defensive skills and scoring touch could baffle US talent.

"All these teams play the same game. They all run their offense very well and everybody on the floor can shoot," US captain Allen Iverson said.

"We just have to be very disciplined in our defense and not take chances, and then run whenever they miss." Puerto Rico and the United States share second in Group B at 2-1 with Australia and Greece next at 1-2. Only the top four in each group advance to the playoff round, so a US loss could produce a must-win finish against Angola. *AFP*

Argentines frustrate Yao

ATHENS—Yao Ming tried his best with 15 points but China crashed to a heavy defeat to Argentina in its third match of the Olympic basketball tournament on Thursday.

The Houston Rockets big man was left to reflect after their 82-57 loss that as the United States improve gradually at the Games, China seems to be getting worse.

After two defeats, the Chinese are in danger of failing to finish among the top four teams in the six-team Group A who will move on to the quarterfinals.

Yao was visibly frustrated with his teammates whose shooting from outside was off-target and their defense lacked intensity. China needs to beat Italy on Saturday to stay in the hunt for the last eight.

In other games, New Zealand rallied from an 11-point deficit in the final five minutes to beat Serbia-Montenegro, 90-87, while Spain clinched a berth in the quarterfinals by beating Italy, 71-63.

YAO: Another disappointing loss AFP

Puerto Rico hung on for an 83-80 win over Angola.

Dillon Boucher's driving layup with 20 seconds left brought New Zealand (1-2) within 87-86. As Serbia-Montenegro was inbounding the ball, New Zealand's Mark Dickel wrapped his arms around Milos Vujanic, but an offensive foul was called on Vujanic. Sean Marks dunked on the inbounds play to give New Zealand an 88-87 lead.

Vujanic missed a 3-point attempt with five seconds left. Dickel made two freethrows with 3.7 seconds left, and Dejan Bodiroga's 3-point attempt at the buzzer was short.

Spain pulled away over the final six minutes behind big men Pau Gasol and Jorge Garbajosa.

The last time Spain reached the quarterfinals was 1988, when it finished eighth. It was ninth in both 1992 and 2000, and didn't qualify for the Atlanta Games. Spain's only medal was a silver in 1984.

Daniel Santiago blocked Carlos Almeida's 3-point attempt as time expired to clinch the win for Puerto Rico (2-1), which beat the Americans, 92-73, on Sunday night. *AFP*

l lead charge

UNG

upset about settling for silver.

"Aaron is a very honest person. I am sure he swam fairly," said Rogan, a close friend of the American. "For a moment, I thought about gold and the idea was just beautiful but, after all, it's fair like this."

But the Austrians protested, as did Britain after its swimmer, James Goddard, was bumped back to fourth instead of third. Fina rejected the appeal, giving the bronze to Romania's Razvan Florea.

According to American assistant coach Dave Salo, the judge in Peirsol's lane apparently applied an old rule that involves kicking going into the wall. The sport's governing body announced that the judge did not adequately explain the alleged violation "in the working language of Fina."

"I tried to remember what I had done wrong," Peirsol said.

Fina's Jury of Appeal heard from the referee and Fina's Technical Swimming Commission, then unanimously rejected the protests. The jury said the referee's report didn't show any rules violation by Peirsol.

Otherwise, it was a smooth night for the Americans, who received five medals in all. Ryan Lochte's silver in the 200 medley was part of a 1-2 finish with Phelps, with George Bovell of Trinidad taking bronze.

And Natalie Coughlin held on for bronze in the 100 free, finishing behind Henry and defending champion Inge de Bruijn of the Netherlands.

Beard won her race in an Olympic-record time of 2 minutes, 23.37 seconds—0.23 seconds better than Australian Leisel Jones, who was under world-record pace for the first 150 m. Jones took silver, while Anne Poleska of Germany earned bronze.

Jones went out in world-record pace, but Beard caught her in the final 50 for an Olympic record of 2:23.37—0.23 seconds better than Jones. *AP*

Laguna eleven cops 3rd place

GOALKEEPER Elaine Sibal stopped Lorena Condemilicor's attempt from the penalty spot to lift Laguna to a thrilling 5-4 shoot-out victory over Negros Occidental and to third place in the first PFF-Super Ferry National Under-19 Women's Championship Friday at the Marikina City Sports Center.

By stopping Condemilicor, Sibal redeemed herself after allowing Negros to go ahead in regulation via Darlyn Diaz's strike in the 53rd minute in the inaugural girls' tournament organized by the Philippine Football Federation and the Marikina City Football Association.

Karla Pacificador pulled one back for Laguna in the 66th, and her sister, Ada, beat the Negros keeper for the marginal goal in the shoot-out in front of a crowd of 10,000.

It was another crushing defeat for the Negros girls, who also allowed the National Capital Region to reach the finals late Thursday with a 4-0 loss in the event backed by Super Ferry, Mayor Marides Fernando and the Marikina government.

NCR and Davao were still battling for the championship at presstime.

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	14	11	10	35
China	14	9	7	30
Japan	9	4	2	15
Australia	7	5	8	20
Italy	5	6	3	14
France	5	3	5	13
Ukraine	5	1	1	7
Russia	4	8	10	22
Germany	4	3	7	14
Turkey	3	0	1	4
Korea	2	6	3	11
Netherlands	2	5	4	11
Hungary	2	3	1	6
Britain	0	1	0	1
Slovakia	2	2	1	5
Romania	2	0	2	4
Greece	2	0	1	3

Country	G	S	B	Total
Poland	1	2	1	4
Belarus	1	1	1	3
Georgia	1	1	0	2
South Africa	1	1	0	2
Bulgaria	1	0	2	3
Thailand	1	0	2	3
Switzerland	1	0	1	2
U Arab Emirates	1	0	0	1
Great Britain	0	4	4	8
Austria	0	3	0	3
DPR Korea	0	2	1	3
Spain	0	2	0	2
Cuba	0	1	5	6
Czech Republic	0	1	2	3
Zimbabwe	0	1	1	2
India	0	1	0	1
Indonesia	0	1	0	1

Teener foils Russian star, claims breakthrough gold

ATHENS, Greece—With a dazzling routine on the floor, 16-year-old Carly Patterson staked her claim Thursday night as the new Queen of Gymnastics.

The American spoiled Russian superstar Svetlana Khorkina's final chance at Olympic gold in gymnastics' premier event and drew comparisons to another US champion, Mary Lou Retton.

Patterson became the first American woman to win gold since Retton did in 1984, and the second in two days, matching Paul Hamm's first-place finish on the same floor Wednesday.

"Strong. Sturdy. Just like we expected. It's great. She was beautiful," said Bela Karolyi, who coached Retton in 1984 and was in the stands for this one.

Patterson scored a 9.712 on floor to finish with 38.387 points and defeat Khorkina by .176. Nan Zhang of China won bronze.

Khorkina, who for years called herself the "Queen of Gymnastics," still took the one prize that has eluded her during an entertaining and wildly successful career—a medal in the Olympic all-around. It was silver, not gold, although listening to her talk, no one would have known the difference.

"I know perfectly well what I'm going to say," Khorkina said. "I'm still an Olympic champion. That's all." *AP*

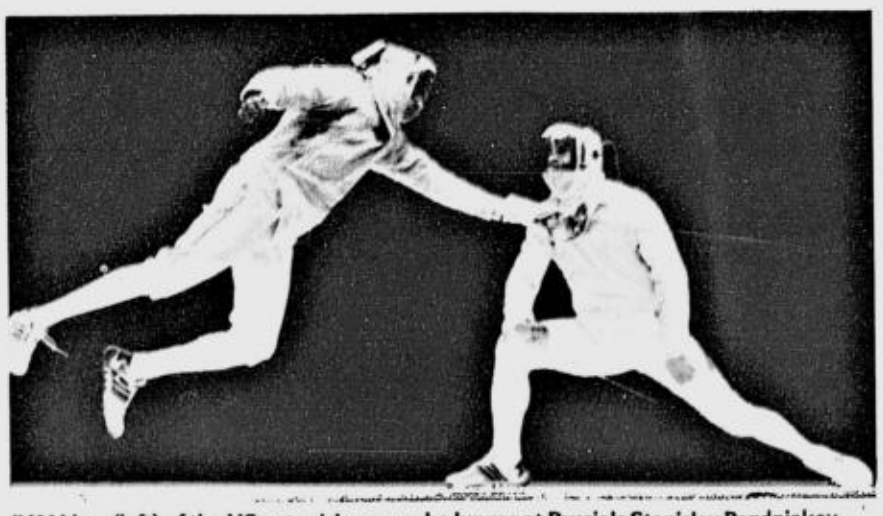
Taguig remains unbeaten

FORWARD Taguig remained unbeaten in their homecourt by routing the visiting Batangas 29ers, 78-62, on Thursday in the Northern Division of the NBC (National Basketball Conference) finals at the C.P. Tinga Memorial Hall.

With Jimboy Robillos held to seven points, former Ateneo Blue Eagle Andrew Cruz, appearing in his first game for the Taguig squad of Mayor Freddie Tinga, and Bernard de Guia took up the slack to score 11 and 10 points, respectively, in the lopsided match.

Forward Taguig moved up to 5-5 while Batangas fell to 4-4 in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Supercat, Skygo Motorcycles, Trans-Asia, Accel and Molten.

"We knew Batangas is a strong team and capable of beating us," Taguig coach Danny Gavierres said.



IVAN Lee (left) of the US gets airborne as he lunges at Russia's Stanislav Pozdniakov during the men's fencing team sabre at the Athens 2004 Olympics. REUTERS

Tañamor fights . . .

From page A21

that tournament.

But Filipino boxing coach George Caliwan expressed confidence Tañamor would beat the Korean this time, even if he fights with the same form when they first met in Karachi.

On Friday, Tañamor celebrated his 27th birthday studying the video of Hong's first round demolition of Madagascar's Lalaina Rabenarivo, whom he stopped in the third round on Wednesday.

"We will study his style," said Caliwan. Later in the afternoon, Payla, who lost his first round flyweight fight against Uzbekistan's Tulashboy Doniyorov on Tuesday, imitated the Korean's style in a sparring session with Tañamor.

"If Tañamor fights with the same form he fought against the Korean the last time, he has a big chance to win," Caliwan said.

A victory by Tañamor would send him to the quarterfinals against the winner of the fight of the favorites—Cuba's Yan Barthelemy Varela and Thailand's Suban Pannon.

Pannon was more impressive in his first round fight as he eliminated Salim Salimov of Bulgaria with a points decision. Barthelemy, on the other hand, advanced by stopping Venezuela's Miguel Angel Miranda Guerra.

Tañamor himself is considered one of the favorites in the 48-kg division. He was listed as a potential bronze medalist by the Sports Illustrated in its pre-Olympic preview.

But the pressure will be on Tañamor since RP's last realistic medal hopes are pinned on him.

"We will fight to the last man," said Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee. *Artemio T. Engracia Jr.*

RP hopes sink: Thai pug exacts revenge on Brin

From page A21

sidelined by the flu in the Olympic qualifying event in Puerto Princesa last January.

He went on a crash weight-loss program and, in a few days, was ready for action. He surprised everyone, including himself, when he went all the way to the gold medal to earn a ticket to the Olympics. His first-round victim there was Boonjomnong.

Brin was seeking to repeat over the Thai to make it to the third round, but the Thai had other things in mind.

Wiser now and with vengeance in his heart, Boonjomnong was a different fighter this time. He refused to mix it up as he had done in their first fight and played a waiting game to perfection.

For four rounds, the taller Thai outclassed the Filipino, keeping his distance with his longer reach and tagging Brin with stiff lefts and rights before moving away. Most of these punches hardly hurt the Filipino—they landed on Brin's battle-scarred face like a powder puff—but they scored the points anyway for the Thai.

He used his guile to turn back Brin each time he came close with his punches. He held, clinched, pushed and wrestled the Filipino against the ropes. On several occasions he slapped the Filipino with a rabbit punch and at one point actually knocked him down with an illegal blow in the nape.

These rabbit punches did not count in the electronic scoring, but they frustrated Brin even more. Piling up points as the fight progressed, the Thai grew more cocky and confident and the Filipino became more impatient and desperate.

Boonjomnong set the tempo of the fight midway through the first round, refusing to be drawn into a slugfest and staying out of harm's way with his hit-and-run style. His long-range attack produced the points that gave him a 5-2 lead at the end of the first round.

It was more of the same in the second round, only it was worse for Brin.

Boonjomnong landed twice as many punches than the Filipino, including a right uppercut opening the round and a series of right straights capped by a left to the face that ended the round at 15-7, the most lopsided of the four rounds.

By the third round, it was clear Brin was not going to catch the clever Thai. In the rare occasion he attacked, he had the Filipino trapped in the neutral corner from where he emerged with four straight points, 22-8.

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2 THE VILLAGE 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	4 JANDARA 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	6 THE STEPFORD WIVES 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	7 CATWOMAN 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	9 COLLATERAL 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	10 CINDERELLA STORY 12:25, 2:20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:05, 10:00

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2 JANDARA 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:50	3 THE VILLAGE 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	4 THE STEPFORD WIVES 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20, 10:00	7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30

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1 COLLATERAL 10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 9:00	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30	
3 THE VILLAGE 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30	4 BANGKOK HAUNTED 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10	5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:10, 12:45, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:10, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30	7 A CINDERELLA STORY 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	8 THE STEPFORD WIVES 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:30

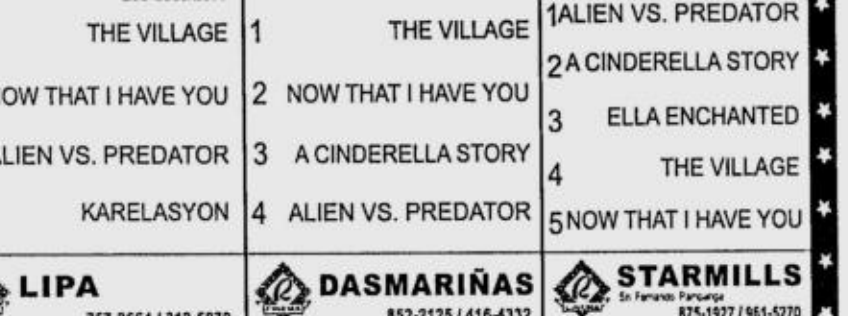
NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00	2 GARFIELD 10:30, 12:10, 1:50, 3:30, 5:10, 6:50, 8:30	
3 A CINDERELLA STORY 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30	4 COLLATERAL 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40	5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:40, 3:15, 5:50, 8:30
6 THE VILLAGE 10:20, 12:25, 2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45	7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30	8 CATWOMAN 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40

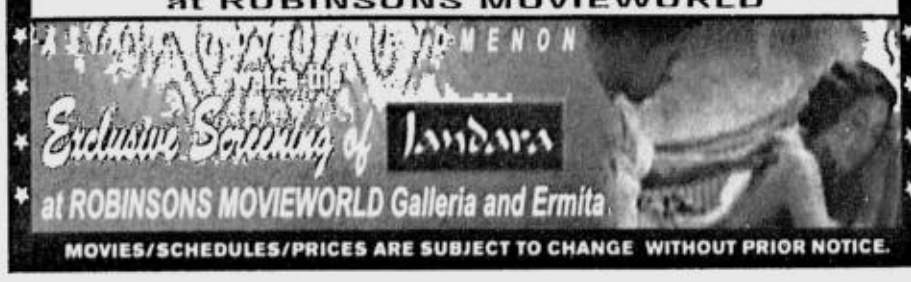
Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575	CAINTA 240-4661	STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 THE VILLAGE	1 THE VILLAGE	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	2 A CINDERELLA STORY
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	3 A CINDERELLA STORY	3 ELLA ENCHANTED
4 KARELASYON	4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	4 THE VILLAGE
		5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870	DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332	STARMILLS San Fernando Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL	2 KARELASYON	2 KARELASYON
3 ELLA ENCHANTED	3 THE VILLAGE	3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 PERLAS	4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	5 ELLA ENCHANTED	5 THE VILLAGE
		6 COLLATERAL

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858	BACOLOD 441-0458/59	ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	2 BEAUTIFUL LIFE	2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 DEAD PEOPLE	3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	3 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
4 THE VILLAGE	4 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS	4 THE PRINCE AND ME
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	5 ETERNAL SUNSHINE	5 DEAD PEOPLE
6 SYLVIA	6 KAINAN SA HIGHWAY	6 ELLA ENCHANTED



at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD



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See'emall! AYALA CENTER — ALABANG TOWN CENTER — AYALA CENTER CEBU

AT THE CENTER

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
NOKIA EVENT August 20 to 22, 2004	HELLO KITTY 30TH BIRTHDAY PARTY August 20 to 22, 2004	IMPERIAL CIRCUS LIVE! August 20 to 22, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

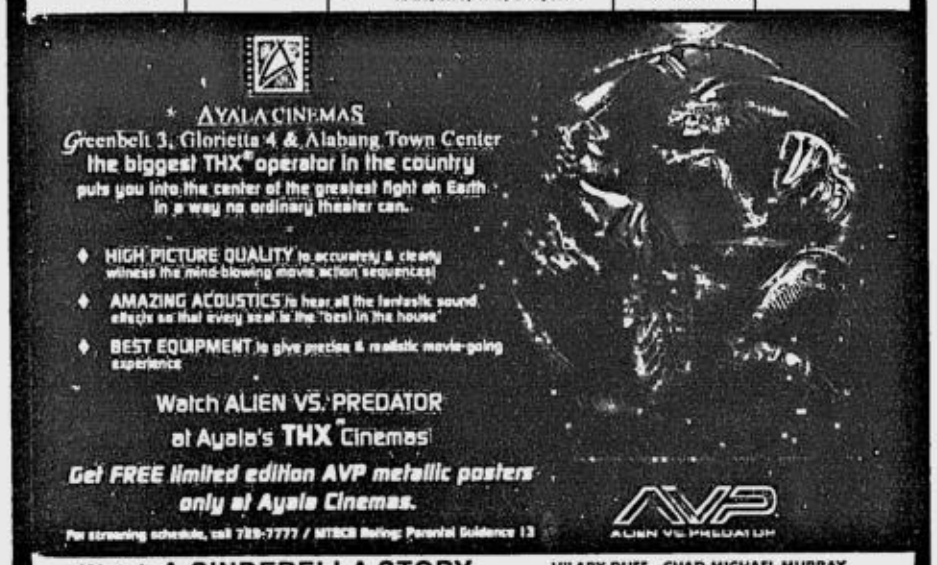
GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES featuring ACOUSTIC JIVE August 21, 7:00 to 10:00pm	MERK'S Happy Hour: Mae Main Feature: ARETHA with the SOUL'D OUT BAND

stage — Rep's Globe Theater presents PINOCCHIO August 7 to December 12

EXPO — TRADE HALL FOR EXHIBITS, EVENTS AND MORE! For inquiries and bookings, please call 750-4982 to 84

AYALA CINEMAS

ATC Alabang Town Center	G1 Glorietta 1	G4 Glorietta 4		GB3 Greenbelt 3	ACC Ayala Center Cebu
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 A CINDERELLA STORY	5 GARFIELD	1 THE STEPFORD WIVES 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50, 12:00	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 THE STEPFORD WIVES	2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2: THE UNBORN	2 THE VILLAGE	6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 1:50, 4:00, 8:10, 8:20, 10:30	2 DIRTY DANCING 2
3 THE VILLAGE		3 THE STEPFORD WIVES 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50, 12:00	3 THE UNINVITED
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	3 THE STEPFORD WIVES	4 COLLATERAL		4 A CINDERELLA STORY 1:30, 3:10, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 A CINDERELLA STORY	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	GB1 Greenbelt 1		5 THE VILLAGE 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30	5 PRINCE & ME
		1 THE STEPFORD WIVES 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 8:10, 8:20			
		2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05			



Watch A CINDERELLA STORY at Ayala Cinemas and get:

- a FREE coupon from Facialhaus / Bioessence for every purchase of four (4) movie tickets. Each coupon entitles you to a FREE facial, back massage, hand spa or foot spa.
- a FREE Carl's Jr. privilege card. Get 10% discount from all Carl's Jr. outlets, valid until March 2005. You also get FREE keychain on your first availment of the discount.

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For screening schedule, pls. call 729-7777
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage

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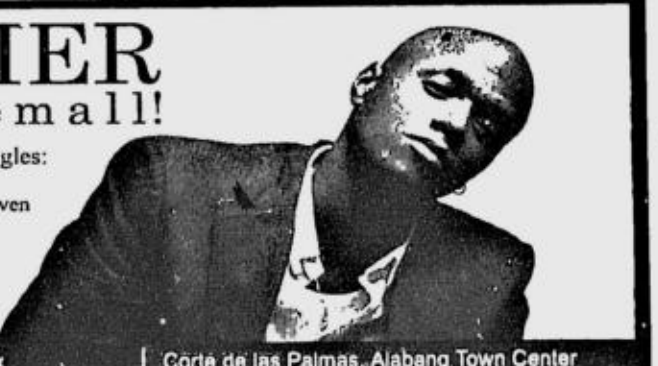

Greenbelt 3 Park — August 20 8p.m.
Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center — August 21 7p.m.
Discount Plus Cardholders get two seats free on a first come first serve basis

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AYALA MALLS Lovemall!

BROSNAN. Much more to his thespic bag of tricks than super-sleuthing.

Thrillers and chillers

By Nestor U. Torre

IN his new film, "Laws of Attraction," Pierce Brosnan departs in a big way from his "signature" James Bond persona, to prove that there's much more to his thespic bag of tricks than super-sleuthing.

Brosnan and Julianne Moore play top New York divorce attorneys who find themselves falling in love at the worst possible time.

The lawyers meet in court as opposing counsels in contentious divorce proceedings between a rock star and his fiery fashion designer wife.

Catalyst

Because the combative spouses are so hyper and unrepressed, they provide the emotional catalyst for Brosnan and Moore's heretofore reserved characters to express their own true, passionate feelings.

Meanwhile, in the new adventure thriller "Anacondas," the stars of the show are the production's computer-generated creatures.

In terms of advances in CGI capabilities, the sequel is much better than the first film, which was made seven years ago.

This time, a scientific expedition is sent to the jungles of Mexico to search for a rare black orchid.

Expedition

The powerful pharmaceutical company that is bankrolling the expedition hopes that the orchid can be used to unlock the secrets of youth and immortality.

Little do the explorers realize, however, that the orchids are being protected by monstrous snakes, who derive their incredible strength from the exotic blooms.

To get to the prized orchids, they first have to contend with the supersnakes—who, in turn, are only interested in them, as food!

Our third film on view, "Alien vs. Predator," has just topped the US box office with a first weekend gross of $38.3 million. Why did it click with viewers?

Double whammy

The ace up its sleeve is the fact that it's a double whammy: It cannily stages a showdown between the creatures of two past sci-fi hits, "Alien" and "Predator."

The "joint sequel" focuses on an expedition that stumbles onto a space-monster blood feud. It stars Sanaa Lathan and Lance Henrikson.

To broaden its appeal, its producers clamped down on its violence quotient to enable it to get a PG-13 rating.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

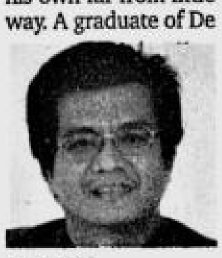
Concern for the poor

ROGELIO Constantino Medina, a writer gifted with the "third eye," publishes stories that reflect the realities of the poor and the destitute, on street children, "special" kids, leprosy patients, as well as social issues.

He has volunteered his services to humanitarian endeavors. His deep sense of nationalism is evident in the quality of his work.

Languages

Medina's family resides in the US. But, he chooses to live here to help the nation in his own far from little way. A graduate of De



MEDINA. Humanitarian endeavors.

La Salle University, he is currently completing his Master's in Education and Languages.

He was the first Filipino journalist to interview Asia's first astronaut, Dr. Mamoru Mohri (a Japanese), for the Far Eastern Economic Review.

E-mail mandynavasero@photo-pro.com.ph or call 899-1767/ 0916 706-0131

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

Genuine superhero

NOWADAYS, people are attracted to "superheroes" created by Hollywood.

Audiences gobble up the adventures of Batman, Spiderman and Catwoman. But, why encourage anyone to believe in something or someone fake? Have we run out of real heroes to glorify?

Sad to say, the real Hero is left out of the picture. Few consider Him their superhero. We thrive on our misconception of God: The fearsome image of the Supreme Hero, which is misleading.

Qualities

A wonderful book, "Nectar of Devotion," describes the attractive qualities of the Supreme Being:

"A person is said to be great if he is powerful, chivalrous, merciful and truthful. These decorations are manifested in the character of the Supreme Person."

If the truth about the Supreme Being is preached, the darkness of ignorance will turn into peace and prosperity.

The Supreme Being is the genuine Superhero who deserves our love and affection because he is real!

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City Telephone 633.2727 633.7851 loc 1-1

1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR — PG - 13 / FS : 12:50 pm, 3:05 pm, 5:20 pm, 7:35 pm LMF : 9:50 pm
2 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES — PG - 13 / FS : 11:25 am, 1:40 pm, 3:55 pm, 6:10 pm 8:25 pm, LMF : 10:40 pm
3 (DOLBY) A CINDERELLA STORY — GP / FS : 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm, LMF : 9:30 pm
4 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE — PG-13 / FS : 1:00 pm, 3:35 pm, 6:10 pm, LMF : 8:45 pm

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES — PG - 13 / FS : 12:00 pm, 2:15 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:45 pm, LMF : 9:00 pm

SUPER CINERAMA — Isetann — CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) RESERVE
2. ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
3. KARELASYON
4. NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5. BANGKOK HAUNTED

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVED
2 DEAD PEOPLE
3 KARELASYON
4 (SDDS) THE VILLAGE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS, PREDATO
7 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATO
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 ALIEN VS, PREDATO
3 THE CINDERELLA STORY

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

METROPOLIS star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 BANGKOK HAUNTED
2 KARELASYON
3 COLLATERAL
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
6 THE VILLAGE

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
2 (SDDS) ELLA ENCHANTED
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL
4 (GOLD DTS) THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 (GOLD DOLBY) THE VILLAGE
6 (GOLD SDDS) THE CINDERELLA STORY
7 (GOLD DOLBY) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
8 (FAMILY) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 (FAMILY) BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 (FAMILY) GARFIELD

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT — Araneta Center — SM MALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 (SDDS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 (DTS) THE VILLAGE
6 (Dolby) BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
7 (Dolby) STEFORD WIVES

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
4 RESERVED

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DTS EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 THE VILLAGE
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.0489
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 AROUND THE WORLD
3 (DOLBY) GARFIELD
4 (DTS) ELLA ENCHANTED

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 CATWOMAN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE
2 (DOLBY) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
3 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
4 (DOLBY) THE CINDERELLA STORY

CINEMA 2000 — Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 KARELASYON
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DTS) THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DOLBY) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DOLBY) THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 GARFIELD
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE
4 (DTS) GARFIELD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) I - ROBOT
2 KARELASYON
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 (DTS) CATWOMAN

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE
2 KARELASYON
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 THE CINDERELLA STORY

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL
3 (DTS) ELLA ENCHANTED
4 (DOLBY) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL
3 PERLAS
4 ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

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NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL 6331901
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 CATWOMAN
4 THE VILLAGE
5 STEPFORD'S WIVES
6 GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL
7 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
8 GARFIELD
9 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
11 CINDERELLA STORY
12 DEAD PEOPLE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 CINDERELLA STORY
2 CATWOMAN
3 I, ROBOT
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 COLLATERAL
6 THE VILLAGE
7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
8 GARFIELD
9 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10 ELLA ENCHANTED
11 DEAD PEOPLE
12 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

SM CITY MANILA 5239244
1 THE VILLAGE
2 STEPFORD'S WIVES
3 COLLATERAL
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 GARFIELD
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
7 CATWOMAN
8 ELLA ENCHANTED
9 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10 DEAD PEOPLE
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
12 CINDERELLA STORY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
5 STEPFORD'S WIVES
6 THE ALAMO
7 THE VILLAGE
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL
3 THE VILLAGE
4 CINDERELLA STORY
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
8 GARFIELD
9 STEPFORD'S WIVES
10 DEAD PEOPLE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

North

SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17
1 COLLATERAL
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 THE VILLAGE
4 THE CINDERELLA STORY

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 THE VILLAGE
4 COLLATERAL
5 NOW THAT I FOUND YOU
6 COLLATERAL

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
2 THE VILLAGE
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 8464444
1 THE ALAMO
2 CINDERELLA STORY
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 STEPFORD'S WIVES
5 COLLATERAL
6 IMELDA
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
9 THE VILLAGE
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
4 THE VILLAGE

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975
1 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE

SM CITY BACOOR
1 DEAD PEOPLE
2 COLLATERAL
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7 CINDERELLA STORY
8 GARFIELD

SM CITY DASMA
1 ELLA ENCHANTED
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 THE VILLAGE
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY LUCENA
1 COLLATERAL
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 WHOLE 10 YARDS
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU (032) 2313876
1 ILOBOC CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 PRINCE & ME
4 DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA KNIGHTS
5 COLLATERAL
6 THE UNINVITED
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3208422
1 DEAD PEOPLE
2 RESERVED
3 ELLA ENCHANTED
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 PRINCE & ME
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
7 RESERVED
8 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

SM CITY DAVAO
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 PRINCE & ME
5 ALONG CAME POLLY
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY CACAYAN DE ORO
1 COLLATERAL
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA KNIGHTS
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
11:15 FS/ 11:45 MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/ 8:45/10:25 LFS/ 11:00 LMF/12:40 END

2 STEPFORD'S WIVES
10:35 FS/11:05 MF/1:15/3:25/5:35/ 7:45/9:20 LFS/ 9:55 LMF/11:30 END

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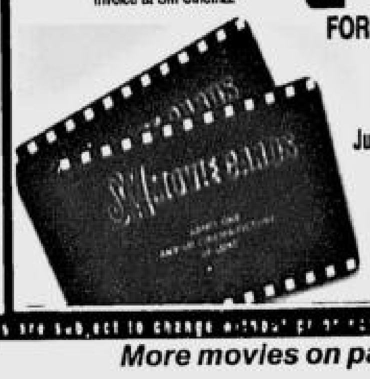

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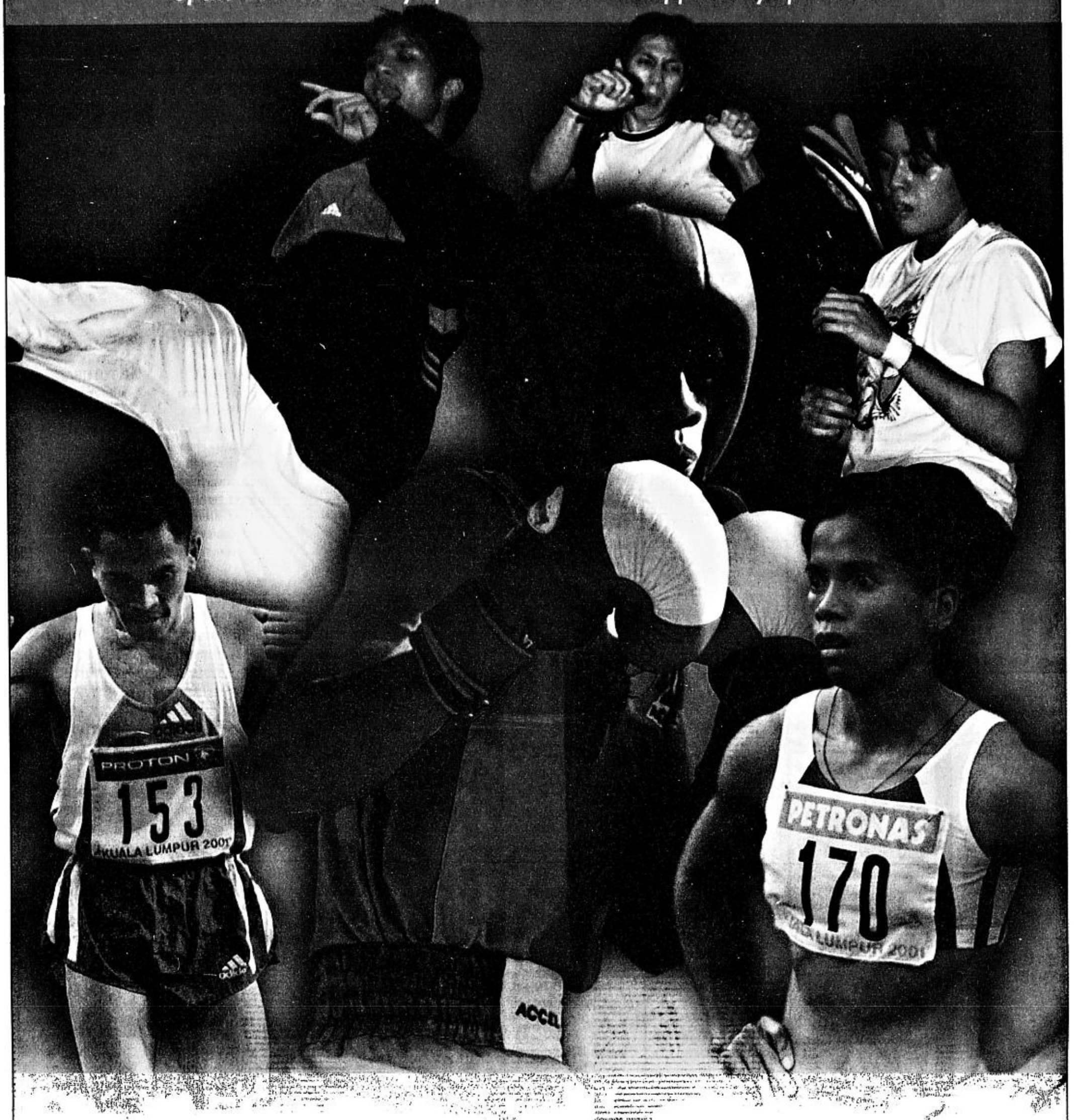

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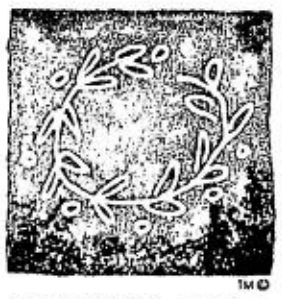

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HOPE	SHAGGY	OMT3
DON'T GIVE UP	CHICANE	OMT4
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MY HEART WILL GO ON	CELINE DION	OMT6

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Business confidence soars–BSP survey

By Doris C. Dumlao

BUSINESS confidence in the Philippines soared to a four-year high in the third quarter, fueled by the improved political and economic environment, based on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' business expectations survey.

In a briefing yesterday, BSP Managing Director Diwa Guinigundo said the institution's latest quarterly survey showed that the overall business outlook diffusion index (DI) for the third and fourth quarters of 2004 had surged to 30.5 percent and 48.7 percent, respectively, from 19.9 percent and 32.4 percent in the second quarter.

DI refers to the percentage share of firms that answered in the affirmative less the percentage share of firms that answered negative in a given indicator.

Guinigundo said the jump in the diffusion indices indicated strong expectations that economic growth would accelerate during the second half of the year.

"This optimism by the business sector should strengthen the expectation that the government's target of 4.9-5.8 percent gross domestic product growth this year could be achieved," Guinigundo said.

He said this was also consistent with global expectations of strong economic performance by Asian and major world economies in 2004.

The BSP's survey involved 574 respondents across the country, coming from the industry, construction, wholesale and retail trade and services sectors. About 65 percent of the respondents came from the National Capital Region.

NCR respondents posted their most optimistic business expectations since the second quarter of 2001, with the overall DI in the third quarter rising to 33.6 percent from 15.7 percent in the previous quarter.

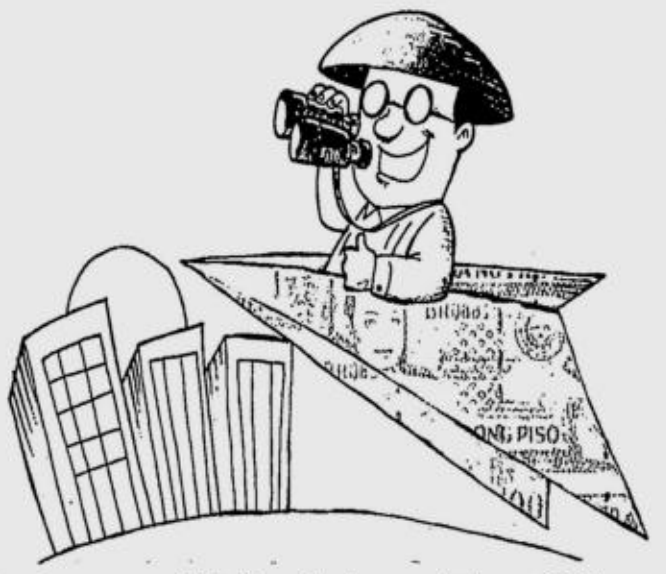
The three major reasons cited for the bullish business outlook were:

- a relatively stable political environment;
- a generally stable peso-dollar exchange rate, and
- increasing demand for Philippine products and services in both the local and external markets.

NCR respondents posted higher business confidence ratings than those located outside.

"Respondents also indicated that other factors such as better government support, technology and systems' improvements, good weather conditions and market demand seasonality also contributed to the more favorable business outlook," he said.

The bullish outlook was further supported by projections of higher business volume by majority of the firms for the third and fourth quarters, with indices of 26.9 percent and 50.2 percent, respectively.



An improving trend was likewise noted in domestic financial conditions and access to credit. Fewer firms anticipated difficulties in accessing credit and tightening financial conditions compared to the previous quarter.

There was likewise expectation of increasing employment in the third quarter, which was supported by the expansion plans cited by 23.4 percent of respondent-firms from the industry sector.

The overall employment outlook index increased further to 16.8 percent from 4.9 percent in the second quarter of 2004.

Among the sectors, the confidence index for services was most optimistic at 34.7 percent, followed by the construction sector at 19.7 percent. The industry and trade sectors also yielded positive but lower indices.

Asked about downside risks, the respondents identified rising oil prices, accelerating inflation and the ballooning budget deficit as the main threats to the expected business upswing.

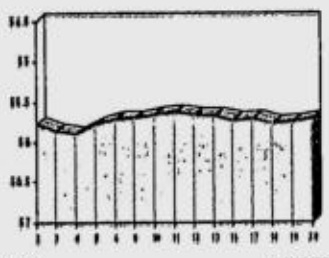
"However, the country's vulnerability to external shocks could be reduced by the expected increase in remittances of over-

BUSINESS/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 55.72 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 20, 2004

¥ 109.12 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 20, 2004

GOLD: $405.8-406.3
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 20, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Shares close higher on follow-through buying

SHARE prices closed 0.61 percent higher yesterday due to follow-through buying in selected blue-chips as well as some second liners after Thursday's market rise, dealers said.

However, concerns about high oil prices which are seen weighing on corporate earnings in the second half capped the gains, they said.

(See stock market report on Page B4)

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 9.57 points to close at the day's high of 1,582.84 after earlier hitting an intra-day low of 1,572.44.

Volume rose to 2.09 billion shares worth P506.4 million from 692.2 million shares worth P412.4 million on Thursday.

Gainers led losers 49 to 19, while 52 stocks were unchanged.

The all-shares index rose 6.58 points to 1,010.88 as commercial-industrials rose 16.57 at 2,523.41 but property was down 0.58 at 516.45 and mining fell 19.36 to 1,885.40. Oil advanced 0.06 to 1.65 while banking and financial services gained 4.61 to 459.87. AFP

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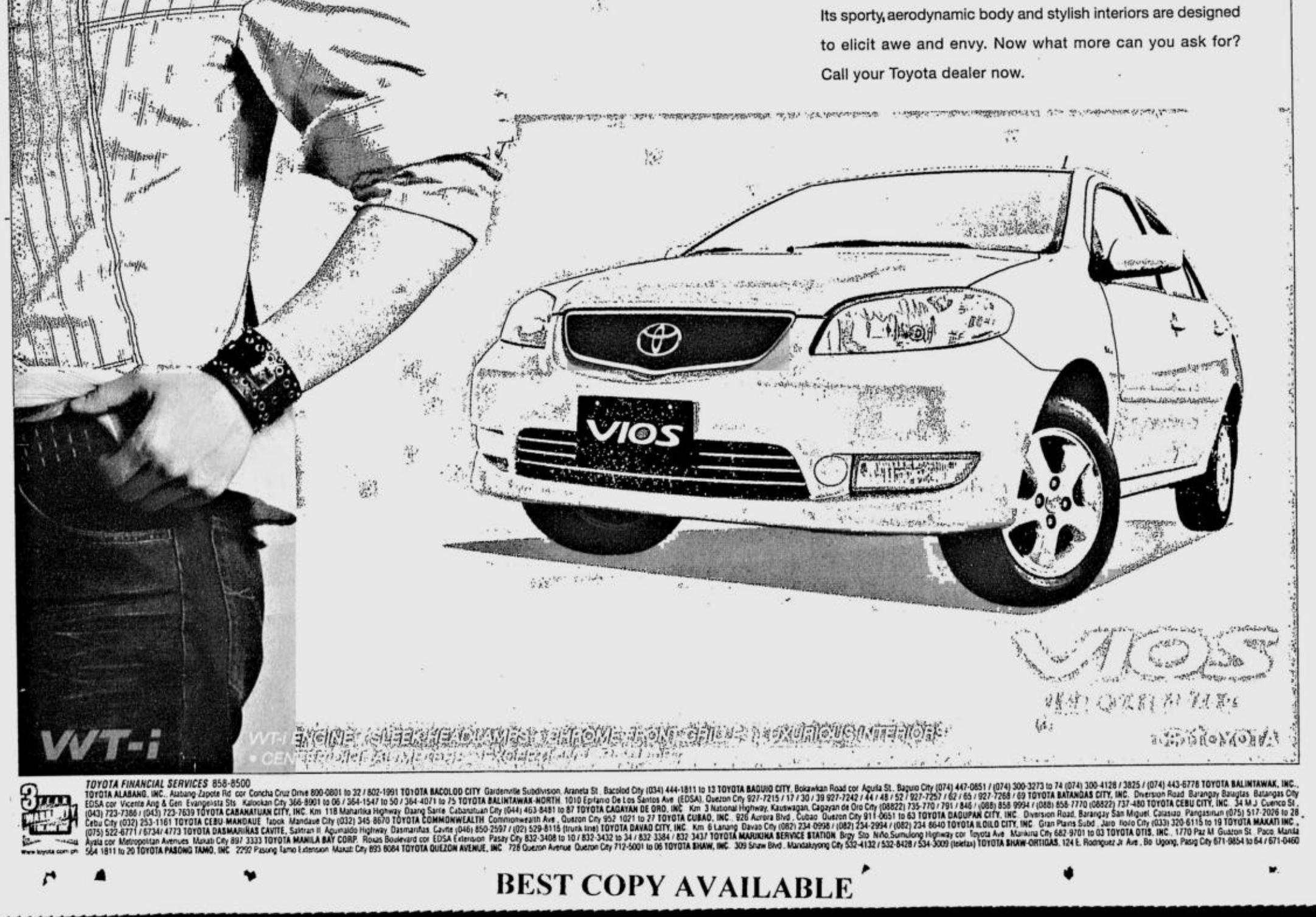

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT CAME to my attention recently that I may be the only Filipino today who still does not know the identity of the "mastermind" behind the assassination of Ninoy Aquino.

All of a sudden, everybody in this country has a theory behind the coming-out-party of a soldier who was convicted for the murder of Ninoy.

You see, our hero came out—of all places—in media. Copies of his affidavit happened to land in media offices from here to the next universe.

* * *

THE SOLDIER came out with full media coverage, of course, saying that he knew the identity of the brains behind the Ninoy murder.

All along, he and he alone—among all those who were convicted of the murder—knew everything. And he knew everything these past 18 years!

I am not ready to declare it as a sad case of too late the hero, but really, brod, where have you been all our life?

* * *

STILL, apparently to build up the drama in his startling revelation, he refused to give the name of the mastermind.

Stop it already, boss! I cannot stand the suspense!

Anyway, the soldier's bombshell revelation even became more sensational news than the Ninoy assassination itself, when he gave a little hint.

Based on the four-page affidavit, he would only say that the mastermind is a "close" relative of Tita Cory, the widow of Ninoy.

Now who can that be? Help me; I'm lost! I just know it is not Kris, okay!

* * *

MEDIA must try to solve the puzzle. The carefully worded giveaway, er, "hint" could have pointed only to one person.

And that is Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., a crony of Mackoy who controls the biggest private business in the country today—San Miguel Corp. So that's why!

Of course, following up on the media initiative to spill what was still a little secret in the affidavit, everybody in business must now talk about it.

For one, they are saying that it was a clear surprise attack against Danding. Look, the guy just won a case in the Sandiganbayan. He may become too comfortable already.

* * *

ANYWAY, some media reports put emphasis on Danding's whereabouts at the time of the Ninoy assassination. He was apparently abroad.

Some "close" relatives of Tita Cory, who surely cannot be among the "suspects," even came out in media to say that it could not have been Danding.

That at least was the gist of the news quoting Tita Cory's brother, former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, and her son, current Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Even Tita Cory was said to have expressed doubt about Danding as the mastermind.

That is the former President speaking, mind you, and she must have had a lot of access to all sorts of information regarding the murder of her own husband.

* * *

NOW, if those people themselves doubt the revelation of the soldier which was, ahh, "fed" to the media, they must have nothing to do with this whole affidavit cum media affair.

The only question is, who is behind this fantastic stage show?

Talk in the stock market points to some power blocks in this cute administration of Gloriaetta who are trying to create a wedge between the Palace and the Danding camp.

Bet on it—this new "accusation" against Danding can still graduate to a full-blown court case.

It's message is clear: Danding, you better behave, and do everything we want, or else ... we will make you *hilot* the cold jail bars. Something like that!

* * *

QUICK, with a show of hands, who among you do not follow the mini-series about the Guy family feud? Same here.

Actually, I agree with you that it's none of my business. It is, after all, a pure and simple family quarrel over money.

I mean, it's their business if they want to kill each other in media with embarrassment, as they fight over the wealth of their husband or father who is still alive.

But recently, the public got directly involved in the family quarrel. Somebody put out an advertisement, offering a reward of P1 million.

All you had to do to get the P1 million cash was to provide some information on the whereabouts of the Guy patriarch, Francisco, founder of the company making the 3-D brand of appliances.

Again, that's a cool one million pesos!

* * *

PERSONALLY I think that the ad was a bit too much. It endangers everybody, not only the members of the family, but all those who work for them.

All right, the ad carefully avoided any reference to an earlier claim that the patriarch had been "kidnapped." It just wanted information.

Look, to get the info, some desperate lunatic could just harass everybody who has anything to do with any of the Guy family household or business—even with the use of some convincing tools like third-degree violence.

To me, instead of getting public sympathy, if indeed such was the intention of the dramatic ad, it only left a bad taste in the public mouth.

NTC owes us ₱600M, say Smart, Piltel

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. are contesting the National Telecommunications Commission's claims that the two wireless giants incurred unpaid regulatory dues of P1.1 billion.

A ranking official of Smart even claimed that it was the NTC that must refund Piltel and Smart more than P600 million after the two companies paid more than what the commission rules mandated.

Ramon Isberto, spokesperson for Smart and parent firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., said that PLDT's two subsidiaries were contesting NTC's interpretation of its own rules and the resulting computation.

"Smart and Piltel have recently filed a case before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court (regarding this issue)," said Isberto. "There is a dispute over the interpretation of rules that govern the assessment of fees."

The NTC said Piltel had incurred more than P1 billion in unpaid regulatory fees since 1999. Of the P1 billion, about P700 million represented the outstanding amount while the rest were penalties and surcharges.

Smart had an unpaid balance of about P100 million since 2002, according to the NTC.

NTC director Edgardo Cabarios said Smart had accused the NTC of double-charging.

"Smart said we assessed them based on the number of channels, or timeslot, of their GSM network," Cabarios said.

Cabarios explained that based on the NTC's computation, one GSM station was equivalent to eight time slots which, in turn, were equivalent to one channel.

The NTC computes the fees based on the number of channels and not on the GSM stations, said the NTC official.

"But Smart said it should be on a per station basis because they are paying spectrum users fee which is already based on the number of channels," Cabarios recalled. "So *sabi nila*, double charging."

Globe Telecom Inc. said it had received P160-million billing from the NTC the other day for regulatory fees this year.

The company denied it had a P100-million overdue balance with the NTC.

Globe said it had received an assessment of P159,650,735.57 for supervision and regulatory fees this year. In accordance with the Public Service Law, the amount is due on Sept. 30 and is therefore, not yet overdue, said Froilan Castelo, Globe's head of regulatory affairs.

NTC chair Ronald Solis said the commission was pressing the collection of the unpaid dues from the profitable telecom companies. The carriers are also the target of the government's new revenue measures aimed at taxing their windfall profits.

Like any other agency, the NTC remits most of its collection to the national government. Last year, the NTC delivered about P1.8 billion to state coffers and hoped to contribute about P1.4 billion in 2004.

Smart netted P11.6 billion in the first half, while Globe earned P6.9 billion over the same period. Even Piltel registered a net profit of P809 million from January to June after years of losses. An NTC official said Piltel had been using its losses to justify its failure to pay.

PLDT, Smart and Piltel's parent firm, posted P12 billion in profit in the first half.

SEC unit to look into GSIS stock purchases

THE COMPLIANCE unit of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) would look into the transactions of First Resources Management and Securities Corp. on behalf of the pension fund Government Service Insurance System.

Sources at the SEC's Market Regulation Department, the unit that monitors trading activities at the stock market, said that based on the preliminary analysis of the Makati broker, "there appeared to be no indication of irregularity" in First Resources' transactions.

The Makati brokerage under incumbent director Vivian Yuchengco has been under SEC investigation for undertaking large deals with GSIS.

The SEC's MRD said it had not reached a conclusion on whether there were other violations of the Securities Regulation Code and SEC rules and regulations based on the broker's trading data submitted to the department.

The case has been referred to the SEC's Compliance and Enforcement Department, the unit that enforces securities laws.

The CED would assess the trading data, including beneficial ownership of shares.

First Resources earlier said it was open to any probe.

GSIS executive vice president Reynaldo Palmiery had said it was their policy to spread their business among accredited brokers. To date, the GSIS has 44 accredited brokers that executes its stock orders. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

FLI net earnings up 39% to ₱281M

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FILINVEST Land Inc.'s net earnings rose by 39 percent to P281 million from January to June from P203 million during the same period last year.

Fely Ramos, FLI first vice-president, said the boost in profit was due to higher sales volume.

In a statement, Ramos cited the turnovers in FLI's housing projects such as Spring Country and Serra Monte Villas both in Quezon City, Parkspring in San Pedro, Laguna, Auburn Place in Las Piñas, the Corona del Mar community in Cebu, and Orange Grove in Davao.

Ramos also cited increased equity in earnings from Filinvest Alabang Inc. due to sales of lots and condominium units, as well as rentals from commercial properties in Festival Supermall and Northgate Cyberzone in Alabang.

Total assets of the company stood at P24.3 billion. Sales reservations doubled in the first half with growth across various sectors from socialized to middle-income housing and residential farm estates.

In the first half of the year, FLI launched new projects such as Palmridge in Batangas, Villa Montserrat, Manor Ridge at Highlands Pointe in Taytay, Rizal, The Manors at Southpeak in San Pedro, Laguna, and Laeuna de Taal.

FLI president Joseph Yap earlier said that the company has reserved P900 million to P1 billion this year for capital spending.

BDO opposes SSS bid to sell EPCIB stake

By Doris C. Dumlao

MALL magnate Henry Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank yesterday opposed the plan of the state-owned Social Security System to bid out its controlling 29 percent stake in Equitable PCI Bank.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, BDO said SSS must instead honor its earlier agreement to sell the block to Banco de Oro.

Elmer Serrano, BDO corporate information officer, said they received on Wednesday a letter from the SSS and learned that of the decision to subject the stake to a public auction under the terms of a Swiss challenge.

The Swiss challenge means that during the bidding, BDO would be given the right to match the highest bid price. It is thus expected to pay more for the controlling stake in Equitable PCI than the original agreement.

The SSS and BDO failed to close the deal to purchase the stake as their exclusive negotiation period lapsed in end-June. But BDO insisted that the deal was legally binding, and went on to file a suit with the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court to compel the SSS to honor the agreement.

The decision to resort to a bidding developed amidst stiff opposition on the original deal with BDO. The deal drew flak from various groups, including the Philippine Association of Retired Persons, and triggered a Senate investigation.

Already, Singapore-based Abacus Capital Cayman Ltd., which manages the Asian Opportunities Fund, submitted a written offer to purchase the same stake at P49 per share, higher than the price earlier agreed upon by BDO and the SSS.

BDO earlier agreed to pay P43.50 or P14 billion for the block, but this would be through a combination of a cash downpayment (P1 billion) and a secured promissory note with staggered maturity.

But the bank decided to go back to its earlier offer to pay over P8 billion in cash.

The acquisition of the SSS stake would have made the Sy family, whose cash cow is the SM mall empire, the single biggest stockholder in publicly listed Equitable PCI. The Go family which founded the bank would remain as key player with about 24 percent interest while the Government Service Insurance System would retain 10 percent.

Business . . .

From page B1

seas Filipino workers in the last quarter of 2004 and the increase in foreign direct investments," Guinigundo said.

Despite increasing demand for Philippine products here and abroad, respondents also cited stiff competition as a major factor that could constrain production and business activity.

Other risk factors cited were unclear economic laws, high interest rates and financial problems.

The BSP's business expectation survey was started in 1986 originally on a semestral basis but was improved in 2001 when it became quarterly and was harmonized with polls in other Asian countries.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 20, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.25	232,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	40.5	41	40.5	41	454,400
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	20
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40.5	42.5	40.5	42.5	254,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.47	650,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25.5	26	25.5	25.5	123,500
Philippine National Bank	23	23.25	23	23	10,300
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	200
Security Bank Corp.	21.5	21.5	21.25	21.25	29,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	250,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2230	2250	2230	2250	1,150
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	821,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	112	112	110	110	12,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1510	1510	1510	1510	1,420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	20,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.65	1,900,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	870	870	865	870	15,860
Ipeople Inc.	1.42	1.44	1.4	1.4	179,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	7,253,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1260	1280	1260	1270	86,810
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.67	0.65	0.67	8,700,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	74,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	137,200
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24.25	23.75	24	1,135,500
Petron Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	1,270,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	110,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4	4.1	4	4.1	6,308,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.4	0.36	0.38	1,720,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.76	280,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	2.95	218,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	25	26	25	26	535,400
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.81	0.78	0.81	80,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	58	57	58	288,300
San Miguel Corp. B	69	70	69	70	53,400
Universal Robina Corp.	7	7	7	7	20,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	310,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	60,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	7,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.5	898,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	150,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	38,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.14	1.22	1.14	1.16	683,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	108,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	40,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	24.25	24.25	24	24.25	93,500
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	6,020,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.125	0.125	780,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.225	0.21	0.225	2,170,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.72	1.5	1.7	36,640,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.028	0.03	0.028	0.03	2,000,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	11,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.25	25	24.25	24.75	1,150,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.0575	0.07	16,700,000
Ionics Inc.	1.38	1.54	1.38	1.54	2,109,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.66	32,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.2	1.42	1.2	1.42	770,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	600,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.017	0.015	0.015	17,300,000
Medco Holdings	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2,266,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.35	0.32	0.35	49,740,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	10,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.14	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	34,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	3,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.5	1.56	1.5	1.56	667,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.67	0.72	0.66	0.72	12,830,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	20,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	60,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs Corp. (Pdr)	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	80,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	1,699,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.245	4,420,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.25	2,370,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	14,840,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	220,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	1,060,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	30,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	9,000
SM Development Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	5,657,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0046	0.005	0.0046	0.0048	212,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	20,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	23,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.22	150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	3,510,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	200,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	310,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	316,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.028	0.039	0.028	0.03	44,900,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	120,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	1,050,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	500,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.004	459,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	68,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	320,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	50,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.46	3	2.46	3	545,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.034	900,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000

DISCLOSURES

JOSEFINA Valera resigned as director of **Basic Consolidated Inc.** Omelita Tiangco was elected to serve her unexpired term.

* * *

GLOBE Telecom clarified that the company has no outstanding overdue balance for supervision and regulatory fees with the National Telecommunications Commission.

* * *

ACTIVE Alliance Inc. postponed its annual stockholders' meeting to Oct. 29 because most of the directors and officers are not available.

* * *

MANILA Electric Co. confirmed that both the Energy Regulatory Commission and the company filed their separate motions for reconsideration before the Court of Appeals. This is in regards to the court's ruling that annulled a previous decision by the ERC allowing Meralco to raise electricity rates by 17 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

* * *

A. SORIANO Corp.'s 500,000 shares were bought by its wholly owned subsidiary, Anscor Consolidated Corp.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Estates Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 24, 2:30 p.m. at the Citibank Tower, Makati City. Record date to determine stockholders who are entitled to vote is Sept. 1. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 20, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.808081	1.000000	55.8090
Japan	Yen	0.007388	0.009143	0.5103
United Kingdom	Pound	1.481131	1.832900	102.2923
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.103612	0.128220	7.1558
Switzerland	Franc	0.650419	0.804894	44.9203
Canada	Dollar	0.623038	0.771010	43.0293
Singapore	Dollar	0.472700	0.584966	32.6464
Australia	Dollar	0.584887	0.723798	40.3944
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.143564	2.652661	148.0424
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.215483	0.266660	14.8820
Brunei	Dollar	0.471321	0.583260	32.5512
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000108	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.019505	0.024137	1.3471
UAE	Dirham	0.220011	0.272264	15.1948
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.237500	69.0636
Argentina	Peso	0.268912	0.332779	18.5721
Brazil	Real	0.271442	0.335909	18.7467
Denmark	Kroner	0.134454	0.166387	9.2859
India	Rupee	0.017480	0.021631	1.2072
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212681	0.263193	14.6885
Mexico	New Peso	0.071206	0.088117	4.9177
New Zealand	Dollar	0.541973	0.670691	37.4306
Norway	Kroner	0.120983	0.149716	8.3555
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013790	0.017065	0.9524
South Africa	Rand	0.123183	0.152439	8.5075
Korea	Won	0.000700	0.000866	0.0483
Sweden	Kroner	0.108562	0.134345	7.4977
Syria	Pound	0.022366	0.027678	1.5447
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023830	0.029490	1.6458
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000422	0.000522	0.0291

Ombudsman wages quixotic battle against corruption

THE PHILIPPINES' chief corruption-buster declines coffee as he sits down to chat with a visitor, explaining that his stomach ulcers are playing up.

Yes, he sighs, it's a job-related ailment.

The stress is telling on Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo as he tries to crack down on corruption plaguing the nation with a shoestring budget and only one graft investigator for every 16,000 employees among the notoriously crooked bureaucracy.

With an ex-President on trial for plunder, around 2,000 other cases swamping the country's anti-graft court and President Macapagal-Arroyo pledging a renewed war on corruption, there is no lack of work in a country judged among the most corrupt in Asia.

But the funds to wage this war are sparse.

MARCELO

No resources

Even after a funding increase approved by Arroyo, Marcelo's annual budget will be just P585 million ($10.5 million), or P7 for every Filipino.

"I'm the first head of this organization who's admitting that—we don't have the resources," Marcelo told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday.

"You have to send an SOS before people start helping you.

"My policy since last year is to tell them (politicians) that this is an expense, an investment that will automatically lead to higher revenue collection," he added, referring to graft by tax collectors that has helped bloat the country's budget deficit.

After winning a new term in May elections, Arroyo said one of her goals was to make the Philippine anti-graft office as strong as its famously tough counterpart in Hong Kong, addressing one of investors' biggest aversions to doing business.

Marcelo says he is encouraged by funding increases under Arroyo that enable him to hire more investigators for lifestyle checks on officials and to recruit more lawyers.

Big fish

But any comparison with Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption, which has about 840 investigators—or one for every 200 bureaucrats—remains laughable for now.

The difficulty of finding lawyers who will work for low wages and can hold their own against highly paid defense attorneys is one of the main reasons for a low conviction rate of about 10 percent, compared to around 80 percent in Hong Kong.

"How do you catch a big fish? How do you convict him? You need good lawyers. Unfortunately, I don't really have many good lawyers," said Marcelo, 50, a former private lawyer who joined the government as solicitor-general in 2001.

With resources thin, Marcelo said he planned to focus on securing convictions in 50 cases involving "big fish" while rooting out "crooks" in the main revenue agencies, as well as seeing through a case against ousted President Joseph Estrada.

More investigators

An expected influx of 166 new graft investigators by next year, besides 37 now, should help boost surveillance of bureaucrats with suspicious wealth.

"I'm sure if they (tax officials) know we have 15 guys under 24-hour surveillance every month, they will stop going to nightclubs, going gambling ... having mistresses," he said.

"Right now we have very little capacity, but by next year, if we are able to get all those investigators, we will have the capacity.

A knock-on effect of more convictions could be a reduction in chronic tax evasion as Filipinos regain the faith that their taxes will go towards better public services instead of lining bureaucrats' pockets.

Marcelo is philosophical about the prospects of success.

"It's all a question of perspective, whether your glass is half empty or half full," he said.

"The water's rising, that's the most important thing. I always tend to look on the brighter side.

Reuters

Ecop urges major reforms to address unemployment

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S biggest employers yesterday called for the implementation of drastic reforms to arrest the continuing rise in unemployment.

In a 36-page paper, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) recommended a series of steps to "strengthen and rebuild the industrial system."

First is to take measures to upgrade industries, liven up the labor market and promote harmonious industrial relations.

This includes the continuous upgrading of technology to achieve competitiveness and benchmarking with the best businesses in Asia and the world.

Ecop also urged the government to find reasonable solutions to the fiscal crisis, provide assistance to displaced workers, break the impasse on labor policy reforms and find ways to manage the explosive population growth.

Ecop added that education and training should be emphasized to allow industries to provide enough jobs to absorb the entire labor force.

This would involve greater investments in human resources development, strengthening in the role of industries in skills training and review of the education-training system curricula.

Ecop likewise stressed the need to put all government efforts behind the promotion of micro, small and medium scale enterprises.

"If we fail in the area of MSMEs, we fail in the job of creating (employment)," the group said.

Ecop's paper outlines the context for the Employers Summit on Employment and Industrial Relations, which would be held at the Philippine Trade Training Center next week.

Data from the National Statistics Office showed that there were 5 million unemployed and 6 million underemployed in the country as of last April.

This means almost one out of three members of the labor force was either unemployed or underemployed.

"The unemployment rate of 13.7 percent is one of the highest in Asia and in the world," the group said.

It noted that the ranks of the unemployed swelled from 12.2 percent from April 2003.

Also, the NSO reported that 1.87 million people were added to the labor force in April this year.

"The gravity of the problem can easily be seen in the long queues of job-seekers applying in various recruitment agencies, either for local or overseas placement," it added. "Sometimes, a single job posted in the newspaper can elicit hundreds of interested applicants."

KBP acccuses GMA-7 of overloading

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE KAPISANAN ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas has accused GMA Network Inc., which operates Channel 7, of airing too many commercials.

According to the KBP, GMA violated the advertising load limit of 18 minutes an hour.

The KBP cited 150 incidents in February and 232 in March, when the network exceeded the 18-minute an hour cap set by the KBP.

The KBP, an umbrella organization of radio and television stations, set the cap to protect the audience from being bombarded by too many advertisements.

GMA Network earlier withdrew its membership from the KBP.

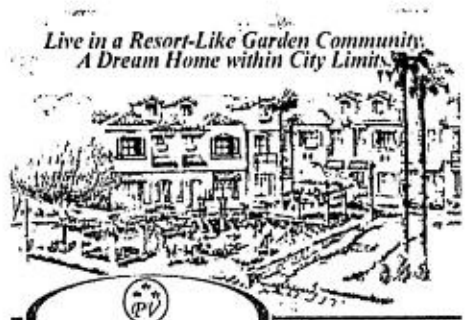
The country's second-largest broadcast firm questioned the KBP's findings.

"The KBP report included portion buys within the program, crawlers, and other types of advertisements, which are embedded in the programs and should not be included in the 18-minute commercial load limit since they were not aired during commercial gaps," said GMA Network chair and president Felipe Gozon.

The KBP report was based on data from Nielsen AD-WATCH.

The report also showed that GMA's average load per incident for February and March was 21.04 and 23.2 minutes, respectively.

Live in a Resort-Like Garden Community. A Dream Home within City Limits.



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KING JAMES AUCTION

AUCTION DATE: AUG. 22, 2004 (SUNDAY) 10:30 AM
INSPECTION DATE: AUG 20 & 21, 2004 from 9:00AM-5:00PM

- COLLECTORS ITEMS: NUDE PAINTINGS W/ NUDE STAMPS, PAPER MONEY FROM CHINA (ISSUED 1914-1949) W/ STAMPS, UNCIRCULATED PHILIPPINE MONEY, PHILIPPINE OLD STAMPS (SPANISH, JAPANESE, AMERICAN OCCUPATION), COLLECTION OF LIQUORS, CIGARS, CIGARETTE LABELS (AMERICAN, JAPANESE OCCUPATION)
- FURNITURES / FIXTURES: DINING TABLES, OFFICE DESK, NARRA CONFERENCE TABLES, FILING CABINETS, NARRA DOORS, PANELS, SLIDING DOORS, BED/MATRESS, LONG SOFA, FURNITURES FROM U.S. EMBASSY
- GENERATORS / EQUIPMENTS: DENVO 5 KVA, 20 KVA, 25 KVA, CABLE LAYING MACHINE, COMPRESSOR, POWER SUPPLY
- ELECTRONICS: BRAND NEW SPX10 TECNICS PIANO, SPX450 TECHNICS, AMPLIFIERS 120 WATTS, SUBWOOFERS, SONY COMPONENTS, AIWA COMPONENTS, SPEAKERS, KARAOKE, BRAND NEW SECURITY CAMERA, 10 CHANELS
- CLOTHINGS / APPARELS / TEXTILES: 3,200 PCS. UNISEX T-SHIRTS, BRANDED CLOTHINGS, 50 ROLLS FABRIC FOR CLOTH IMPORTED FROM ITALY, 250 ROLLS COLORED FABRICS, JAPANESE FABRICS, 100 ROLLS IMPORTED UPHOLSTERY MATERIALS
- MISCELLANEOUS: 2 UNITS 3 TONNER AIR CONDITION (CONDURA), 30 ROLLS CARPETS, BOLTS & NUTS, WINDOW TYPE / SPLIT TYPE AIRCONDITION, CHAIRS, TABLES, BANK FURNITURES FROM 5 BANKS, ETC.
- VEHICLES: 125CC MOTORCYCLES

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BIR collects ₱843M more from 'voluntary' payments

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has generated an additional P843 million in "voluntary" payments from corporate taxpayers that sought to avoid a BIR audit.

Voluntary payments are paid on top of a company's tax liabilities.

These serve as "donations" to the government, which is hard-pressed to increase revenue collection to cover its gaping budget deficit.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the P843 million in voluntary payments were collected under the Centennial Taxpayers Program.

The CTRP was set up to encourage taxpayers to increase their tax remittances in exchange for certain privileges, such as being the last to be audited and protection from undue investigations.

To qualify for the privileges, a taxpayer's 2003 annual income tax remittance should exceed his 2002 remittance by at least 20 percent.

Taxpayers whose quarterly income tax remittance for the fourth quarter of 2003 exceeded that for the fourth quarter of 2002 are likewise qualified.

Henares said there were over a thousand taxpayers named centennial taxpayers due their increased tax remittance.

The Top 20 centennial taxpayers recorded an annual income tax growth ranging from 33 percent to over 5,000 percent, and a quarterly income tax increase of at least 25 percent.

These included SM Prime Holdings Inc., GMA Network Inc., 6750 Ayala Joint Venture, Sulpicio Lines Inc. and BDO Insurance Brokers Inc.

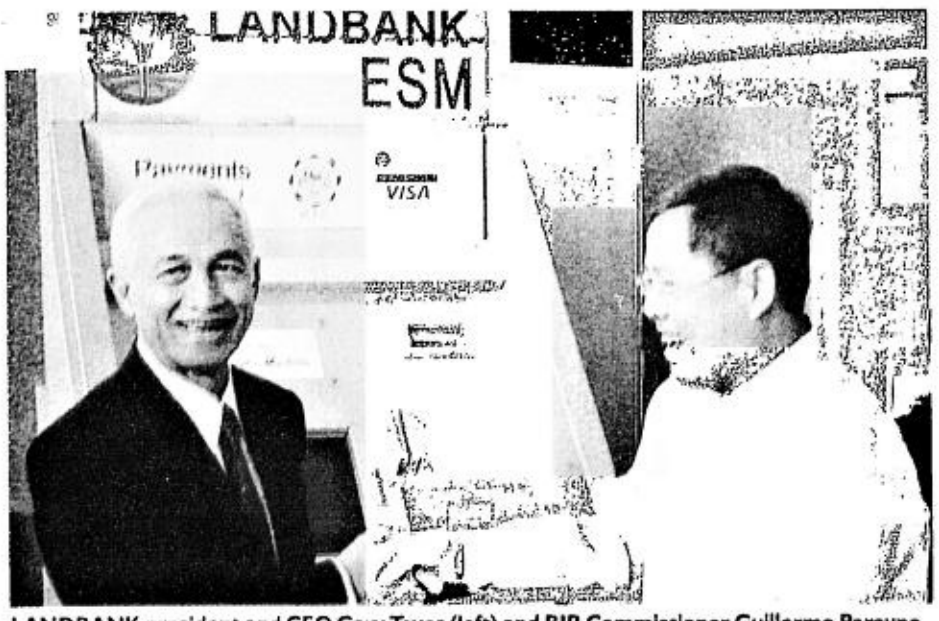
BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said the CTRP, which was launched early this year, serves as part of the revenue agency's efforts to increase its tax collection.

Accounting for over 80 percent of the government's revenue, the BIR carries the bulk of the burden of solving the budget deficit problem.

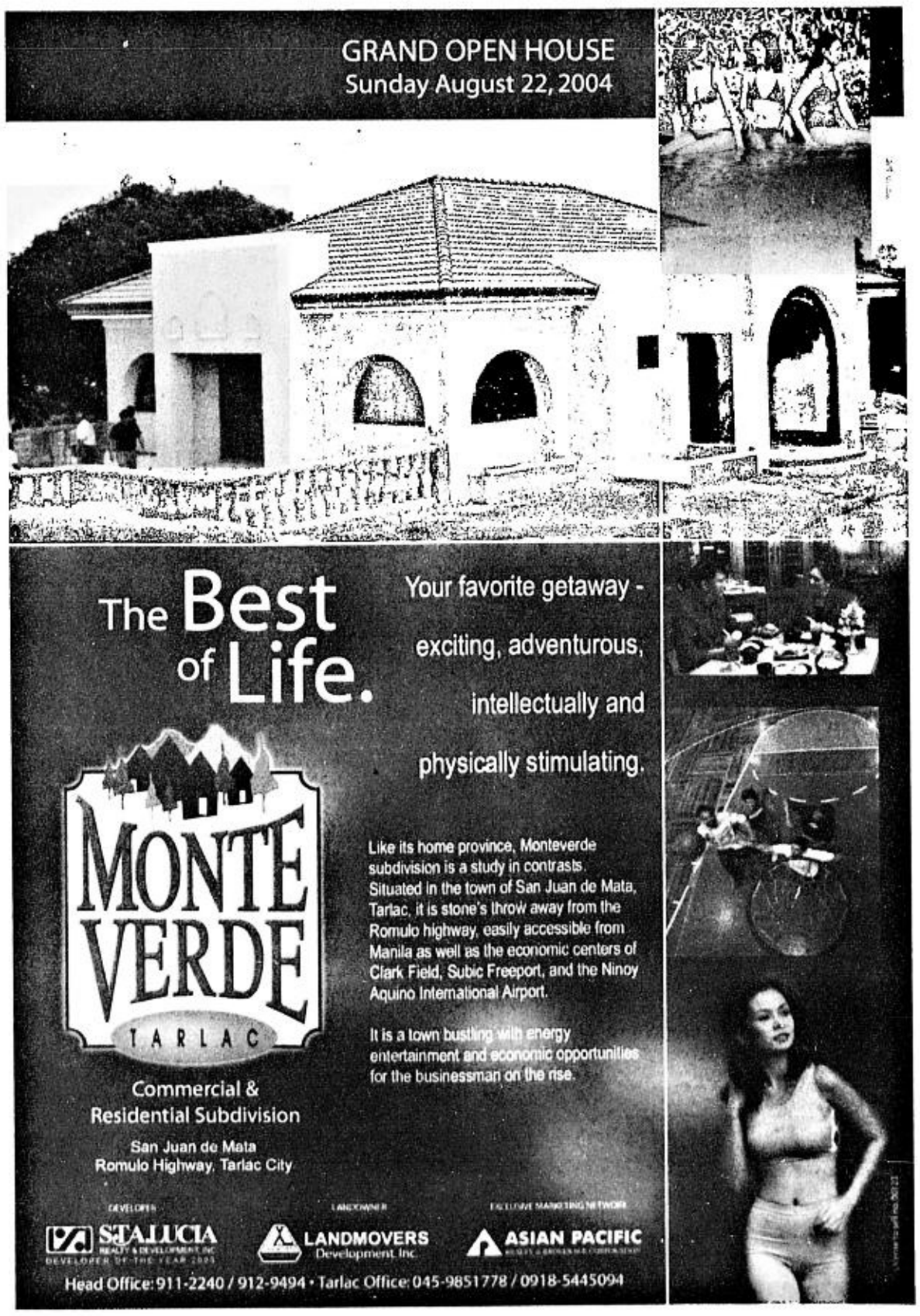
The government's budget deficit stood at P199.9 billion last year, and is expected to be slightly reduced to P197.8 billion by year-end.

The government is hoping to gradually reduce the deficit in the coming years, until it is totally wiped out by 2010, or by the end of President Macapagal-Arroyo's term.

Aside from the CTRP, other programs implemented by the BIR to increase collection include the use of computerized auditing system and the tax mapping drive, under which BIR personnel are sent to field to check on the tax compliance of commercial establishments.



LANDBANK president and CEO Gary Teves (left) and BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno with a model unit of the ESM on display at the Landbank Expo at the LBP Plaza in Malate, Manila. LBP will install Efficient Services Machines (ESM's) in selected National Capital Region branches by October this year in an effort to facilitate government's payment and collection system.



People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

E. Excel Phils' Singapore Incentive Tour

OUTSTANDING distributors of E. Excel International (Philippines) were treated to a 3-day trip to the Lion City of Singapore as part of their incentive as the company's top performers.

All the distributors toured the city and the island of Sentosa enjoying the islands' sights and sounds as well as Chinese and other Asian cuisine in some of the finest restaurants in the city-state.

Among the places they visited include the Night Safari, the Butterfly Park and Insect Kingdom, the Images of Singapore Museum, the Singapore Underwater World and the National Orchid Garden. They also had the ride of their life traveling above the city with Singapore's cable car system and monorail.

At Sentosa, participants were thrilled by a musical fountain show and after a tour of the Night Safari, they converged at its Amphitheater for its late night show.

The distributors were billeted at the Conrad Centennial Hotel. They also had time shopping at Singapore famous shopping district at Orchard Road.

Participants to the tour also visited the E. Excel offices in Singapore and had a tete-a-tete and photo opportunity with E. Excel founder Dr. Jau-Fei Chen. They also met with the other distributors from various Asian countries, the US and Canada in its "Excellence 2004 Convention" held at the Singapore National Indoor Stadium. There, Dr. Chen discussed the science of immunology. The critically acclaimed Shanghai Song and Dance Ensemble entertained the participants with its bewitching performance providing song and dance numbers which ranges from the imperial to the impish, the classical to the contemporary, and the dainty to the daring.

E. Excel International was established in 1987 by Dr. Jau-Fei Chen in Springville, Utah. It is now one of the finest health manufacturers in the world. It continues to grow at a rapid rate because of its commitment to manufacturing the finest quality products and teaching the principles of nutritional immunology to promote healthy living.

Currently, E. Excel International has expanded from the United States and Canada into Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong, China and many other countries in Europe. It has also expanded to include manufacturing facilities not only in the US, but also in Singapore and Shanghai, which ensures a continued supply of products around the world.

INQUIRER RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH HPAIR

The Philippine Daily Inquirer renews its partnership with the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) Philippines network clubs for Generation Why 3, the second part of this year's Inquirer Seminar Series. Shown in photo are (from left) Ateneo de Manila University HPAIR AVP for administration Erika Leung, Inquirer AVP for strategic marketing communication Celine Madamba, University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) HPAIR president Michaela Abrera, Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, University of the Philippines (UP) HPAIR president Donald Ngwe, and UP HPAIR VP for marketing Maureen Valencia. Generation Why 3 will be held on Oct. 27 at the Irwin Theater, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City. The theme is 'Linking the Barangay to the Global Village', and will feature modules on globalization and technology. Speakers include artist Grace Nono, Inquirer columnist Ambeth Ocampo, Sunday Inquirer Magazine associate editor Ruel de Vera, Smart Communications Inc public affairs head Mon Isberto and Anino Entertainment producer and director Niel Dagondon. This is open to all college students. For inquries, call 897-8808 local 260.

E. EXCEL Phils top distributors in front of the Conrad Centennial Hotel where they were billeted.

Study in the US: Graduate Match Seminar

CALLING on prospective graduate students: if you have plans of pursuing graduate studies abroad, contact the Philippine-American Educational Foundation and sign up for the Graduate Match Seminar on Aug. 28, Saturday, 9 to 4 p.m.

The GMS is a one-day event designed to help you choose the right graduate school in the United States. You will be provided resources and materials, as well as free advising sessions with trained educational advisers. The seminar fee will cover the cost of the guidebooks, testing registration bulletins, computer review sessions for the tests, reservations for further workshops and support, and more! Discussions will include applying to graduate programs, financial aid, visa applications, and academic culture in the United States.

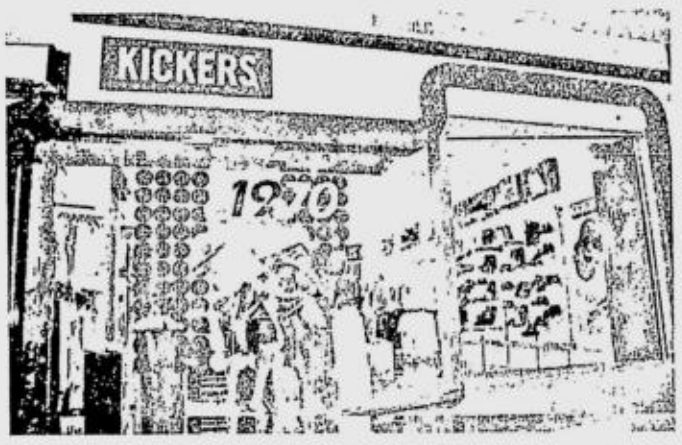
PAEF is the educational advising center for US higher education in the Philippines. Our mission is to promote educational exchange between the two countries through objective information, advice, and support to any applicant interested in US colleges and universities.

Registration and pre-payment for the Graduate Match Seminar is required. Contact PAEF at 812-0945 or 812-0919 for details. PAEF is located at the 10th Floor, Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

ProductFILES

Shopping at Kickers UK, Australia and Manila

KICKERS, one of Europe's most popular footwear brands recently created a new concept design for their boutiques around the globe.



In the Philippines the boutiques were redesigned to express the global direction of the brand. With its use of sleek new materials, simplified layout and a warm, clean color scheme, Kickers stores in Manila express the kind of casual lifestyle associated with its products.

Shoppers visiting Kickers boutiques in Metro Manila will receive the same shopping experience as shoppers in the UK and Australia. The renovated look puts the spotlight on Kickers' products.

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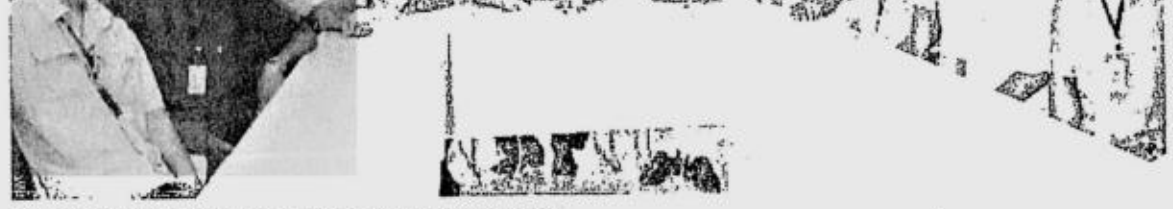

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SHOPWISE ALABANG LAUNCHES COFFEE SOLUTIONS CENTER

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BITS Clips

Job generation takes centerstage in Ecop Summit

THE GOVERNMENT'S target of generating six million to ten million jobs over the next six years will take centerstage come Aug. 23 to 24 as the Employers' Summit on Employment and Industrial Relations gets underway. Organized by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop), the Employers' Summit to be held at the Philippine Trade Training Center will primarily shape and set early doable programs for job preservation and creation. Highlighting the theme, "Negosyo at Trabaho Para sa Bayan," the Employers' Summit will have as keynote speaker Tony Tan Caktiong, chair/CEO of Jollibee Foods Corp. Ecop is staging the Employers' Summit in partnership with the International Labor Organization (ILO), Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc, USAID Micronutrients Operational Strategic Technologies (Most), Commercial Market Strategies, and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI). Its media partners are the Philippine Daily Inquirer and BusinessWorld Online.

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AS A way of thanking thousands of Filipinos working in Hong Kong, PLDT (HK) Ltd will host its own Fiesta event on Aug. 22 at Chater Garden for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW). Aptly titled "Pinoy Fiesta", the whole event will start with a Mass to be officiated by the well-loved Msgr. Tom Gonzalez. Followed by grand presentations of different Filipino Cultural Dances with performances by leading OFW organizations in Hong Kong. The day-long festivities will be highlighted by a variety show topbilled by popular comedienne Al Al De Las Alas and sexy star Rica Peralejo together with the hilarious Tita Glow and teen hearthrob Justin Cuyugan. For free invites to the "Pinoy Fiesta" event at Chater Garden on August 22, visit the different Pinoy Fiesta Distribution Centers in Tsuen Wan, Yeun Long, Sai Kung, and World Wide House.

Getaway with SIA

SINGAPORE Airlines launches its Getaway with SIA to Singapore Package featuring Millennium and Copthorne (M&C) hotels during "A Taste of Singapore" food promotion (Aug. 1 to 31) at the Heritage Hotel in the Philippines. This special package includes roundtrip economy class airfare on SIA's Boeing 777 aircraft equipped with Krisworld available in every seat. Waiting for them is a 3-days/2-nights accommodation (twin-share) with daily breakfast in an M&C hotel in Singapore. Get a 50 percent discount on food and beverage at any of the 4 M&C hotel's designated restaurants. A free one-day unlimited ride around the city on SIA's "Hop-On" bus, and roundtrip airport transfers go into the package as well. This package has been arranged by Tradewinds Travel and Tours, a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines Ltd. See print ads for details, call your travel agent or SIA tours desk in Manila at 751-5151/52 or 810-4960 locals 4005/4006, in Cebu 232-6211 and in Davao at 224-5608.

Cut-Price Plus! at NBS

BOOK lovers have another good reason to come rushing to National Book Store from Aug. 6 to Sept. 5. The country's leading bookstore holds its annual Cut-Price Plus! book sale that gives customers great discounts on selected books and other reading materials. In addition, customers get book coupons for every minimum purchase. See flyers and print ads for promo details

LETRAN HS BATCH '79 SILVER JUBILEE

Shown are Colegio de San Juan de Letran High School batch 1979 graduates during one of their reunion/meetings: Jose Flores, Marcisus Ambat, Kenneth Nuyda, Virgilio Yabut, Reynaldo Gonzales, Arthur Ty, Leonardo Singh, Edsel Sobrecarey, Dan Pagkalinawan, Roberto Torres, Leonides dela Pena, Jose Silos, Januario Veloso, Mario de Santos, Virgilio Badilla, Gil Martin, Dag Bawagan, Ariel Aznar, Robert Ocampo, Ruben Azarcon, Noel Arno, Menandro Igtiben, Edmundante Paule, Joseph Sia Tan, Enrique Salva, and Emilio dela Cruz.

Batch '79 has put up a foundation called On-Line '79 Foundation which has done fund-raising activities to send some less fortunate and deserving children to school. The foundation president, Edsel Sobrecary, is inviting all graduates of Letran HS batch '79 to the Grand Alumni Homecoming Silver Jubilee celebration entitled 'Knights-On-Line' as the batch plays host as silver jubilarians this Nov. 20 at the Letran grounds. For more details, get in touch with Edsel Sobrecary at 0921-251-3086 or Kenny Nuyda at 0917-810-7586.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

E. Excel Phils' Singapore Incentive Tour

OUTSTANDING distributors of E. Excel International (Philippines) were treated to a 3-day trip to the Lion City of Singapore as part of their incentive as the company's top performers.

All the distributors toured the city and the island of Sentosa enjoying the islands' sights and sounds as well as Chinese and other Asian cuisine in some of the finest restaurants in the city-state.

Among the places they visited include the Night Safari, the Butterfly Park and Insect Kingdom, the Images of Singapore Museum, the Singapore Underwater World and the National Orchid Garden. They also had the ride of their life traveling above the city with Singapore's cable car system and monorail.

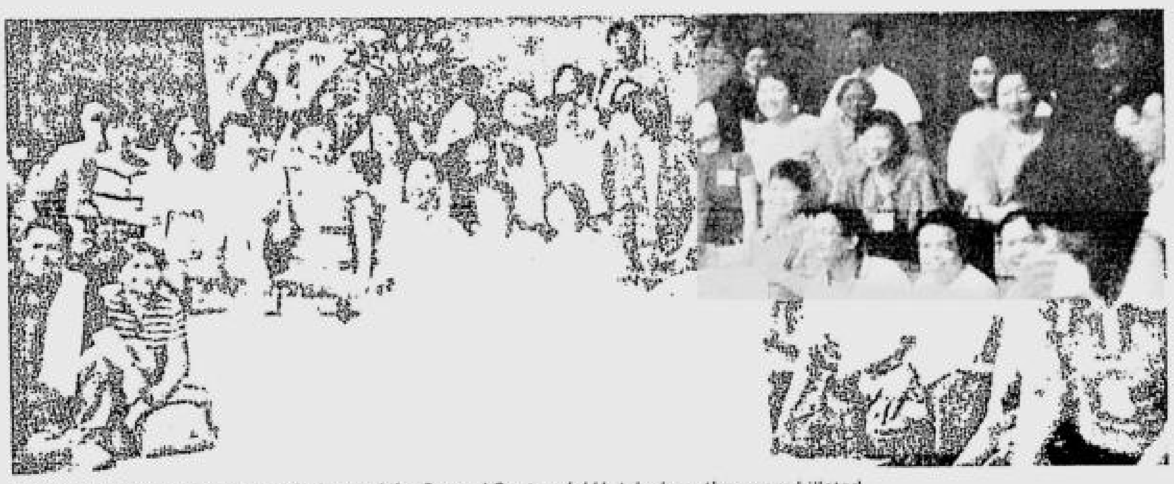
At Sentosa, participants were thrilled by a musical fountain show and after a tour of the Night Safari, they converged at its Amphitheater for its late night show.

The distributors were billeted at the Conrad Centennial Hotel. They also had time shopping at Singapore famous shopping district at Orchard Road.

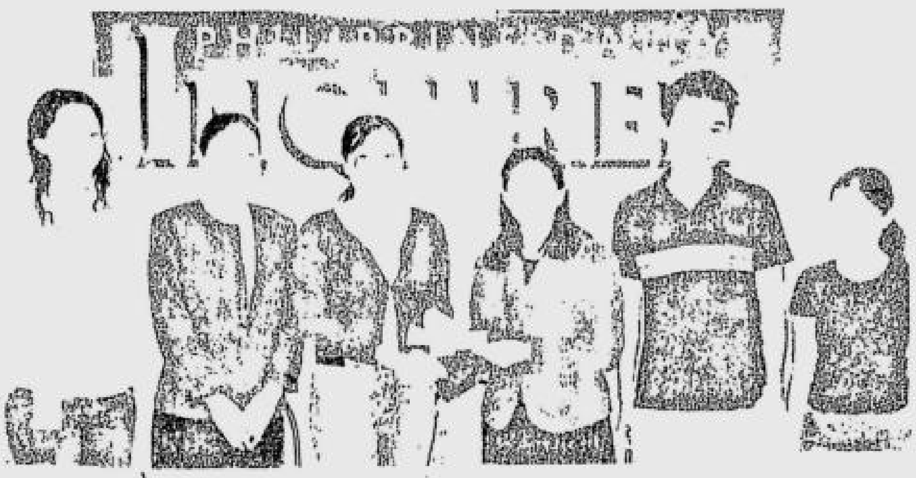
Participants to the tour also visited the E. Excel offices in Singapore and had a tete-a-tete and photo opportunity with E. Excel founder Dr. Jau-Fei Chen. They also met with the other distributors from various Asian countries, the US and Canada in its "Excellence 2004 Convention" held at the Singapore National Indoor Stadium. There, Dr. Chen discussed the science of immunology. The critically acclaimed Shanghai Song and Dance Ensemble entertained the participants with its bewitching performance providing song and dance numbers which ranges from the imperial to the impish, the classical to the contemporary, and the dainty to the daring.

E. Excel International was established in 1987 by Dr. Jau-Fei Chen in Springville, Utah. It is now one of the finest health manufacturers in the world. It continues to grow at a rapid rate because of its commitment to manufacturing the finest quality products and teaching the principles of nutritional immunology to promote healthy living.

Currently, E. Excel International has expanded from the United States and Canada into Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong, China and many other countries in Europe. It has also expanded to include manufacturing facilities not only in the US, but also in Singapore and Shanghai, which ensures a continued supply of products around the world.



E. EXCEL Phils top distributors in front of the Conrad Centennial Hotel where they were billeted.



INQUIRER RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH HPAIR

The Philippine Daily Inquirer renews its partnership with the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) Philippines network clubs for Generation Why 3, the second part of this year's Inquirer Seminar Series. Shown in photo are (from left) Ateneo de Manila University HPAIR AVP for administration Erika Leung, Inquirer AVP for strategic marketing communication Celine Madamba, University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) HPAIR president Michaela Abrera, Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, University of the Philippines (UP) HPAIR president Donald Ngwe, and UP HPAIR VP for marketing Maureen Valencia. Generation Why 3 will be held on Oct. 27 at the Irwin Theater, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City. The theme is 'Linking the Barangay to the Global Village', and will feature modules on globalization and technology. Speakers include artist Grace Nono, Inquirer columnist Ambeth Ocampo, Sunday Inquirer Magazine associate editor Ruel de Vera, Smart Communications Inc public affairs head Mon Isberto and Anino Entertainment producer and director Niel Dagondon. This is open to all college students. For inquries, call 897-8808 local 260.

Study in the US: Graduate Match Seminar

CALLING on prospective graduate students: if you have plans of pursuing graduate studies abroad, contact the Philippine-American Educational Foundation and sign up for the Graduate Match Seminar on Aug. 28, Saturday, 9 to 4 p.m.

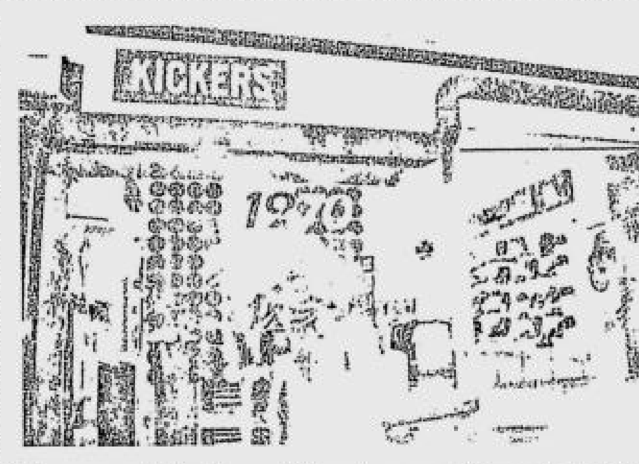
The GMS is a one-day event designed to help you choose the right graduate school in the United States. You will be provided resources and materials, as well as free advising sessions with trained educational advisers. The seminar fee will cover the cost of the guidebooks, testing registration bulletins, computer review sessions for the tests, reservations for further workshops and support, and more! Discussions will include applying to graduate programs, financial aid, visa applications, and academic culture in the United States.

PAEF is the educational advising center for US higher education in the Philippines. Our mission is to promote educational exchange between the two countries through objective information, advice, and support to any applicant interested in US colleges and universities.

Registration and pre-payment for the Graduate Match Seminar is required. Contact PAEF at 812-0945 or 812-0919 for details. PAEF is located at the 10th Floor, Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Product FILES

Shopping at Kickers UK, Australia and Manila



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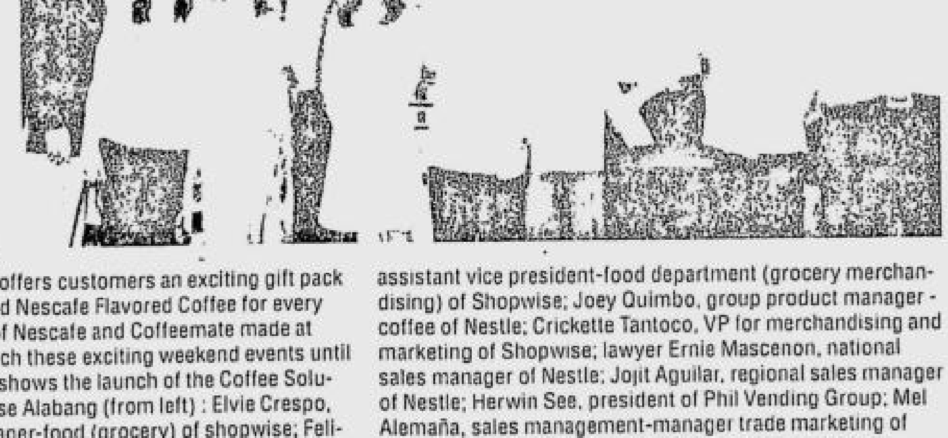

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Inquire at any of the ff. Pryce - Call Centers at Tel Nos.

Mla. - 897-5916 / 897-5902 Bacolod (034) 435-0011 to 13 loc. 11

Lipa – (043) 756-1916 Davao (082) 221-9034 to 37 loc. 402/403

Cebu – (032) 231-5654 CDO - (08822) 727945

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF ONE-YEAR WASTE OIL GENERATION FOR EMB-DENR ACCREDITED WASTE TREATERS ONLY

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : Aug. 30, 2004, 2:00 PM, Solarium Multi-Purpose Hall, Building-1 Ground Floor, NPC-Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the one year waste oil generation from the following

	Plant and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	**PANAY Diesel Power Plant-1** Brgy. Tabugon, Dingle, Iloilo Province	P 3.260 / Liter
2.	**BOHOL Diesel Power Plant** Dampas, Tagbilaran City, Bohol Island	P 3.260 / Liter
3.	**POWER BARGE – 101** Brgy. San Juan, Maribojoc, Bohol Province.	P 3.250 / Liter
4.	**POWER BARGE – 102** Brgy. Obrero, Lapuz, Iloilo City.	P 3.255 / Liter
5.	**POWER BARGE – 103** Pier, Estancia, Iloilo Province.	P 3.260 / Liter
6.	**POWER BARGE – 104** Brgy. Obrero, Lapuz, Iloilo City	P 3.260 / Liter
7.	**BATAAN Combined-Cycle Power Plant** Brgy. Luz, Limay, Bataan Province.	P 3.250 / Liter
8.	**CEBU Diesel Power Plant – 1** Colon, Naga, Cebu Province	P 4.400 / Liter

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. **PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S / CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO PhP 120,000.00.**
2. **LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN 2003 ORIGINAL (OR CERTIFIED XEROX COPY) FOR THE BIDDER OR AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY.**
3. **VALID ACCREDITATION FROM EMB-DENR FOR WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY AND AS WASTE TRANSPORTER, INCLUDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PERMIT TO TRANSPORT, WASTE MANIFEST FORM AND CERTIFICATE OF TREATMENT ALL ACKNOWLEDGED BY EMB-DENR.**

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding must present the original accreditations from EMB-DENR and may secure the official bid form at P1,000.00/set from Mr. Samuel V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Ground Floor Building-I, NPC Head Office, AGham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 924-5384. **Deadline for issuance of bid forms is 4:30 PM August 27, 2004.** Attendance to the Pre-bid Conference on August 27, 2004 at 2:00 PM is mandatory for all bidders.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI – August 19, 20 & 21 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE SCRAP/JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : September 2, 2004, 2:00 PM, Solarium Multi-Purpose Rooms, Bldg.-1 Ground Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items located at Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), Napot Point, Morong Bataan:

	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	One (1) lot of scrap items consisting of the following	P 18,493,563.00/lot
a)	assorted cables, insulated & bare	Block 8, MCD, BNPP
b)	ductile pipes, flat bars, steel plates	Block 9, MCD, BNPP
c)	various crane parts, scaffoldings, steel planks, pedestals, skids, pipes, plates, channels & other scrap metals	Switchyard Area BNPP
d)	scaffolding, channels, rebar cutter, steel bender, steel tower cuttings over-head cranes, steel forms & assorted scrap metals	Rebar Fabrication Area-BNPP
e)	One (1) lot junk heavy equipment motor vehicles, genset, steel ramps junk auto parts, lathe machines, trusses, crane booms, and other scrap metals	Motor Pool Area BNPP
f)	One (1) lot scrap items consisting of wire ropes, heating and welding machines, gas cylinders, and other unserviceable items	TEMP-FACIL BNPP
g)	Seven (7) units cylindrical tanks, various sizes	Various Areas BNPP
h)	One (1) steel structure	MIESCOR Fire Station

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2003 ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY OF THE BIDDER OR AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY AND ONE (1) COPY OF VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVERS LICENSE, GSIS ID, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P2,000.00/set from S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 PM Aug. 30, 2004. Site or Ocular Inspection and Pre-Bid Conference for the items for sale at BNPP shall be at 1:00 PM August 31, 2004.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI – August 19, 20 & 21, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY
METRO MANILA

IN RE: PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO ACT AS GENERAL SALES AGENT FOR PALAU MICRONESIA AIR (PHILS.) INC.) CAB CASE NO. 25025
ASIA PACIFIC CHARTERING (PHILS.) INC., Petitioner.)

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776 as amended, notice is hereby given that **ASIA PACIFIC CHARTERING (PHILS) INC.** has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) a petition for authority to act as General Sales Agent for Palau Micronesia Air (Phils.) Inc. The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on **August 31, 2004 at 2:30 p.m.** at the Conference Room of the CAB Old Mia Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing, the petitioner shall present evidence.

The petitioner is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

Parties opposed to the granting of the petition must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the petitioner, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this petition on its merit.

Let a copy of the Petition and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

09 August 2004
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd) FREDERICK G. VILLARIN
Hearing Officer

(PDI-August 14, 21 & 28, 2004)

RA Form No. 10-1 (LCRO)
Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province: Metro Manila
City/Municipality: Taguig

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048 a notice is hereby served to the public that **MA. NATIVIDAD F. MONSOD** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **"MARIA NATIVIDAD"** to **"MA. NATIVIDAD"** in the birth certificate of **MARIA NATIVIDAD** who was born on **October 19, 1953** at **Taguig, Metro Manila** and whose parents are **Monico C. Monsod** and **Adoracion M. Flores**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than **FIFTEEN (15) days** upon publication.

(Sgd.) EDILBERTO F. FACINABAO
City/Municipality Civil Registrar

(PDI - Aug. 21 & 28, 2004)

INVITATION FOR RE-BID

ARMM SOCIAL FUND PROJECT
Loan No. 7153 PH
IFRB-ASF-02-2004

August 21, 2004

1. The Government of the Philippines through the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of strategic infrastructure component of the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) Project and it intends to apply a portion of this proceeds to cover eligible payments under the contract for the construction of various infrastructure sub-projects. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
2. The ARMM Social Fund (ASF) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction/rehabilitation of the hereunder subproject:
   - Sub-Project Code : SRI-SUL-RPF-001
     Title : Rehabilitation and Improvement of Jolo Base Port [(1) Construction Passenger Terminal Building, (2) Rehabilitation of Concrete Pavement and Retaining Wall-Berth No. 3 (3) Rehabilitation of Admin. & Engineering Building]
     Project Location : Poblacion, Jolo, Sulu
   - Sub-Project Code : SRI-TAW-RPF-001
     Title : Rehabilitation and Improvement of Bongao Base Port (1. Construction of Passenger Terminal Building; 2. Rehabilitation of Pier Slab; 3. Rehabilitation of Dilapidated Rubber Dock Fenders)
   - Location : Poblacion, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at ARMM Social Fund, 3rd Floor VHW (Land Bank) Building, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City, Telephone Numbers (062) 992-2684-86 & 992-2706, Fax No. 991-9410, E-mail: ASF@info.com.ph
4. A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application addressed to ARMM Social Fund and upon payment of non-refundable fee of *PhP 3,500.00* or its equivalent in a fully convertible currency, for each set starting **August 24, 2004**. The method of payment will be on cash basis only.
5. Bids shall be valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after bid opening and must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend at 10:00 a.m., September 28, 2004 at the ASF Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and must be accompanied by a minimum bid security of at least 2.5% of the total bid amount in the form of cash, certified check, or bank guarantee drawn against a Bank acceptable to the ASF and to expire thirty (30) calendar days after bid validity.
6. Interested bidders are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held at ASF Office on **September 09, 2004** to start at 10:00 a.m.
7. The ARMM Social Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to the award of the contract, without thereby incurring financial or any liability to the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the ARMM Social Fund's action.

(Sgd.) NAZRULLAH B. MANZUR
Executive Director

(PDI - Aug. 21 & 28, 2004)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue,
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

DepED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education (DepEd) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as "Small B" to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the Repair and Renovation of Various DepEd Offices as follows:

Project Description :
a) Renovation of Proposed PFSED Office located at the 4th Floor Bonifacio Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City
b) Repair/Renovation for the Proposed Procurement Service Office located at the 5th Floor Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City
c) Repair of Roofing of Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City

Approved Budget : P2,728,147.52

Interested contractors shall submit their Letter of Intent together with their application for eligibility to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee not later than 5:00 p.m. of **August 25, 2004.**

Bid Documents will be issued to eligible contractors starting **September 6 to 10, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Building, DepEd Complex, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,500.00.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **September 13, 2004**, 10:00 a.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **September 27, 2004** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI - Aug. 14 & 21, 2004)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET
Supply of Labor and Materials for Office Uniforms for the DBP's Rank-and-File Employees	P12,400,000.00

Estimated Date of Completion/Delivery : November 30, 2004

Schedule of Activities:

Pre-Bidding Conference	August 31, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., 6/F, OPS Conference Room, DBP Head Office
Submission and Opening of Eligibility Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" September 16, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., 6/F, OPS, DBP Head Office

Application for eligibility check is open to suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry and has been engaged in the **institutional uniform contracting for at least three (3) years and the lead proponent has at least five (5) years of relevant management training**, must be at least 60% Filipino-owned (for partnership and corporations). Interested suppliers may secure the Eligibility Requirement Form from the Procurement Services Division, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City or you may download these forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 series of 2003 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The Bank reserves the right to reject documents that do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call Mr. Manuel A. Tagalo at telephone numbers 812-6375 / 815-1613.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug. 14 & 21, 2004)

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Contact also our friendly Liaison Officers:
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MANILA (every 30th of the month, same venue)	**AUGUST 30, 2004** SATURDAY, 1-5 PM SYCAMORE FUNCTION ROOM, RICHMONDE HOTEL SAN MIGUEL AVENUE, ORTIGAS CENTER
NAGA CITY	**AUGUST 21, 2004, Saturday, 3-7 PM** VILLA, CACERES, LA BELLA 3
SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	**AUGUST 25, 2004, Wednesday, 3-7 PM** GRACELANE HOTEL, TOMAS HALL
BAGUIO CITY	**AUGUST 28, 2004, Saturday, 3-7 PM** HOTEL VENIZ, FLORENCE-A

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XII
Tacurong City

NOTICE OF RE-AUCTION OF RAW SUGAR "B" STOCKS

The National Food Authority, Region XII, Tacurong City as authorized per AO-2K4-G-006 dated July 02, 2004 wishes to invite all interested licensed sugar traders to participate in the re-auction sale of the following sugar stocks:

PROVINCE	LOT NO.	SUGAR MILL / LOCATION	VARIETY	VOLUME (Lkg)	INDICATIVE PRICE (PhP/ Lkg)
COTABATO	1	COTABATO SUGAR CENTRAL CORP. Kilada, Matalam	RAW SUGAR "B"	2,092.26	760.00
TOTAL				2,092.26	

The auction sale of the above described sugar stocks shall be on a "WHOLE LOT" basis.

The auctioneer shall be required to post a bond equivalent to Ten Percent (10%) of the total peso value of the offer to purchase. The bond shall be in the form of Cash or Manager's/Cashier's Check payable to NFA.

Only prospective auctioneers who have submitted the following documentary requirements are qualified to participate:

1. Duly certified photocopy of sugar trading license/registration.
2. If through representative, Special Power of Attorney (SPA) for single proprietorship and Board Resolution or Secretary's Certificate for corporation. The representative must be an employee of the owner (in case of single proprietorship) or company/corporation he/she will be representing.
3. For authentication purposes, original copy of sugar trading license/registration must be presented before the Auction Committee.

The re-auction sale shall be conducted at the Office of the Provincial Manager, NFA Cotabato Provincial Office, Kidapawan City on the following schedule:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Invitation to Bid and Tender Form	August 23-24, 2004	8:00 AM – 5.00 PM
2. Pre-Auction Conference	August 27, 2004	9:00 AM
3. Auction Proper	August 27, 2004	10:00 AM

The tender forms may be obtained at NFA Cotabato Provincial Office, Kidapawan City after payment of the non-refundable fee of PhP 200.00. For further information, you may inquire with the office of the Provincial Manager, NFA Cotabato Provincial Office, Kidapawan City thru Telephone Nos. 064-278-4268 / 288-1743 or at the NFA Regional Office XII, Tacurong City thru Telephone Nos. 064-200-3803 / 064-384-1247.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECT AND INFORMALITY FOUND THEREIN OR ACCEPT OFFERS WHICH IN ITS JUDGEMENT ARE MOST REASONABLE AND ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) PANGALIAN B. BUSRAN
Acting Assistant Regional Manager/
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – August 20 & 21, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
DIVISION PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT
Bids and Awards Committee
San Jose de Buenavista, Antique

Invitation for Bids (IFB)
Loan No. 4108-PH

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter referred to as IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*.
2. The DepEd Division Project Implementation Support Unit (DepEd-DPISU) for TEEP through the Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Construction/Repair of school buildings itemized in nine (9) packages (the "Works") in different municipalities in the Province of Antique. The following are the project packages:

Package/District/School	NC	R	Scope of Works
Package A - Project Reference No. V-A-02-014-2003			
Sibalom			
1. Former Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
2. Odiong Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
3. Ilabas Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPFSB
Total, Package A		*8*	
Package B – Project Reference No. VI-02-015-2003, II-A-02-002-2004 and III-A-02-003-2004			
Patnongon			
1. Igbun Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
2. La-Rioja Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPFSB and
		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
3. Baybay Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
4. Samalague Elementary School		2	Construction of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom SB
5. Tamayoc Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Bugasong			
Tagudtud Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPF
Total, Package B	*2*	*15*	
TOTAL (Package A and B)	*2*	*24*	

Legend:
NC - New Construction
R - Repair
SB - School Building
BLSB - Bagong Lipunan Type School Building
MPFSB - Marcos Pre-Fab Type School Building

Local contractors should be accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with a category of at least ***Small B for Package A*** and at least ***Medium A for Package B***.

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the DepEd Division Office of Antique, Binirayan Street, San Jose de Buenavista, Antique starting **August 23, 2004** for a nonrefundable fee of ***One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00)*** per package. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of ***two and half percent (2.5%)*** of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education - Division Office of Antique, Binirayan Street, San Jose de Buenavista, Antique on or before ***10:00 a.m., September 20, 2004***, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. Prior to Bid Opening, a Pre-Bid Conference will be held on ***10:00 a.m., September 9, 2004*** at the same address indicated above.

(Sgd.) VICTOR G. DE GRACIA
Division Bids and Awards Committee
Chairperson

(PDI - Aug. 21, 2004)

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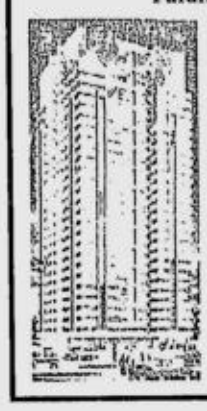

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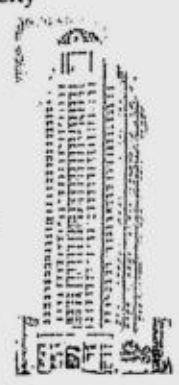

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- 3 UNITS NR MAKATI CBD FA40-47 P2.4M MAKATI PRIME CITADEL P. BURGOS
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- SPLIT LEVEL PENTHOUSE W/6 PARKING SLOTS 5 BR T&B FAMILY RM FOYER MAIDS RM SERVICE AREA SWIMMING POOL SPA FA1,311 P65M AVIGNON TOWER HV DELA COSTA COR SAN AGUSTIN ST SALCEDO VILL

Manila
- 6 STUDIO UNITS W/ MODERN FACILITIES POOL & RECREATIONAL AMENITIES FA37-43 P2.9-3.4M 1-3 BR UNITS ALSO AVAILABLE PEARL OF THE ORIENT (FORMERLY EMBASSY POINTE TOWER) ROXAS BLVD ERMITA

Mandaluyong
- 3 BR/3TB MAIDS RM SERVICE AREA BALCONY FOYER PARKING SLOT NR SHAW BLVD 24HR SECURITY FA165 P7.3M WACKWACK TWIN TOWERS OLD WACK-WACK RD

Paranaque
- 5 UNITS 4BR/5TB KIT & LAUNDRY AREA MAIDS RM W/ TB 24HR SECURITY W/ PARKING NR. AIRPORT & ROXAS BLVD SCENIC VIEW OF MANILA BAY FA323-347 P12.9-13.9M WASHINGTON TOWER ASIAWORLD CITY NEAR MARINA SUBD
- PENTHOUSE SPLIT LEVEL 5 BR/5TB WALK-IN CLOSETS SERVICE AREA MAIDS RM W/ TB W/ 2 PARKING SLOTS SCENIC VIEW OF MANILA BAY FA617 P27.77M WASHINGTON TOWER ASIAWORLD CITY

Pasig
- 2 BR/2TB MAIDS RM W/ TB SERVICE AREA W/ PARKING SLOT NR SM MEGAMALL PODIUM FA111 P5M CRISANTA TOWER CAPT JAVIER ST

San Juan
- PRIME LOCATION NR SCHOOLS & SHOPPING CENTERS FA176 P6.9M PLATINUM 1000 ANNAPOLIS ST. GREENHILLS

Taguig
- 2 UPPER PENTHOUSE UNITS STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES & AMENITIES FA511.37 EA P42.41M EA LAWTON TOWER ESSENSA EAST FORBES FORT BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
- ALSO AVAILABLE GROUND FLOOR UNIT FA242 P18.46M CAMERON TOWER ESSENSA EAST FORBES FORT BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
- PRIME HIGH-END WELL SECURED FA299 P21.5m PACIFIC PLAZA TOWERS FT BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY

Provincial

Cebu
- 6 RES'L UNITS W/ LEASE INCOME FA32-34 P1 2-1.25M TRINITY PLAZA GONZALES COMPOUND NR GORORDO AVE
- 2 STOREY PENTHOUSE FA301 P6M NEW HOUSE MANSION GOV CUENCO (FORMERLY BANILAD RD)

BANCO DE ORO
688-1230; 688-1232
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683-0415
email: psalus@bdo.com.ph
* prices subject to change
* all prices negotiable

LOT

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CANYON WOODS
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TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m²
P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VILLA LIGAYA 149m² & 134m2
P3,534/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

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Canda • 0919-4328300

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2
P2,248/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m²
P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2
P2,500/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m²
P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM
371m2 P2,650/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

Wedgewood 0919-6847094 Beth

LAGUNA

HOT SPRING LOTS
LA 175m² & Up at P3,750/m²
30% D/P Bal. 3 Yrs to pay at 0%
adjacent U.P. Los Banos
Call: 842-5877 • Cell 0927-2946992

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2
Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

PROVINCIAL

★100% TAGAYTAY ★
240m²-up 3,750/m² 12ST D/P 6T Mo
Best Loc nr Taal Vista 6509372

MEMORIAL LOT

HERITAGE PARK Lawn Lot
P59,500 Garden P346,847.00
838-8501 • 0919-4900564

HOLY CROSS LOT 938-4893

Loy-M G-ress@55T 8386645

Loy-P 4L@45Teach 09164834182

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m²
P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

FACTORY/WHSE

PASIG TAGIG AREA
LA7439m² FA3000m²
FULLY FENCED W/H2OTANK
C6 ACCESS 0917-6251467
CALL 687-7325 • 656-0360

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

ONE BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN
Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA103, 75, 50 m²
9289541 / 7313055

HOUSE

MANILA

STA. CRUZ 3br P12T 7212056

PARANAQUE

4BR SUKAT PRNQUE NR SSH
551-7832 (0920)5117590

QUEZON CITY

NrtFrview 3BR P7T 9260398

LAGUNA

PACITA II BLURIDGE 5610197

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR FUR CTR PARK 8447524

TWNHSE/3 UNITS/3FLRS/4BRS
MULTI-USE: OFC/CLNC/RES/ 1103
DEL PAN ST. MKTI W/GRGE
872-3425 0916-3135877

MANILA

Condo 1BR 1TB FF Nice
Malate 65m² 17T 631-0752

P.FFAURA ROBINSON TOWER
551-7832 (0920)511-7590

MANDALUYONG

SEMI CONDO 3BR W/ TUB + CR W
/GRGE LOOK FOR MARLYN
5338536/09163508758

QUEZON CITY

3BR 2TB grge gd H2O & loc
22Metro Hts Subd Sunville
Proj6 7001570/09205218910

3BR back SM North 9261282

APARTMENT

MANILA

840 P.Noval NR UST Tel
7313035 7361925 9289541

CONDO APT 5636296•5610197

Sta. Ana 2218 Embarcadero nr
church w/pump 6.5T 564-4101

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APARTMENT

PASIG

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Loc Call 641-3771

QUEZON CITY

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along Ipmy Line 927-9844

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•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Magallanes Vill. 852-6918

Nr Chinese Gen 7118679

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY
PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L
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ALEXANDRA 3BR 250;216m²
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Twnhse 3BR 2TB 0927-5277113

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TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

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97BMW 316i A1 525T 7211877

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L300 Exceed 24Kms 2003
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01 FUEGO 4X4 AT ALL ORIG.
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'00Toyota CamryGlx Very Low
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98 Red Caravel 83T km 8901574

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Land Cruiser Pajero Surf
Town-Lite-Hi Ace Vanette
Delica Serena Terrano Rvr
Estima Prado etc 7127539

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

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CRANE 40T Hyd 09277902546

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1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

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Sale/Rental/Service 8014494

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EDUC'L PLAN Dang 8061574

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SD CF ETC NEW 09196326595

SONY VA10 Z1-WA PTIUM M512R 60HD New 0919-6326595

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YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT ELITE PIANO CENTER Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

5mos. male Labrador pup w/ shots&papers, 13 red marks Kobe, Chuck, & Sunshadow line, call 0917-8915193 or 823-3110

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

G Ret Pups 09185221929

LAB 3mos 09205566100

Labrador Pups Call 9425737

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(REBIDDING)

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites authorized suppliers of Grain Mechanical Dryers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Test-run/Commissioning of Batch Recirculating Grain Dryers for the following locations:

A. FOR LUZON PROJECT

LOT	QTY.	ITEM	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET	SOURCE OF FUNDS
5	3	Batch Recirculating Dryer with holding capacity of 6 metric tons	Region V	P1,800,000.00	NFA's Appropriation

B. FOR VISAYAS AND MINDANAO (VisMin) PROJECT

LOT	QTY.	ITEM	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET	SOURCE OF FUNDS
3	10	Batch Recirculating Dryer with holding capacity of 6 metric tons, four (4) units to be provided with 10kVA gasoline genset (prime mover) each	Region IX	P6,680,000.00	NFA's Appropriation

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activities	Date
Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents	August 16-23, 2004
Pre-Bid Conference	August 24, 2004, 10:00 AM
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids	September 6, 2004, 10:00 AM
Opening of Bids	Immediately after Submission deadline

Each bidder shall enclose a Bidder's Security in any of the schedules of amount as follows:

A.	Cash Managers Check, Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Bank Draft	1% of the Approved Budget for Contract
B.	Bank Guarantee	1.5% of the Approved Budget for Contract
C.	Surety Bond	2.5% of the Approved Budget for Contract
D.	Foreign Guarantees	100% of the Approved Budget for Contract

Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents can be secured from the BAC Secretariat at the following offices:

	Telephone No.	Contact Person
For the Luzon Project		
NFA Central Office – 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City	(02) 712-1701	Ray
NFA Regional office – Cabanatuan City	(044) 600-0722	William
For the Visayas and Mindanao Projects		
NFA Central Office – 101 E. Rodriguez Sr., Ave., Quezon City	(02) 711-7403	Thelma
NFA Gen. Santos City	(083) 554-5444	Diane

Bidding documents shall be issued only to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 per lot.

It is required that the prospective bidder's must have a single largest contract – completed within the last seven (7) years and similar to the contract to be bidded – whose value, adjusted to current prices, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Venue for the Pre-Bidding Conference for both Luzon and VisMin Projects is at the HRMD Training Room, 7th Floor NFA Central Office 101 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City. Submission and Opening of Bids shall be at the NFA Cabanatuan City Farmers Training Center for the Luzon Project, and NFA Davao City Provincial Office, Sta. Ana Avenue, Davao City for the Visayas and Mindanao Projects.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority, NFA shall likewise assume no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their respective bid.

NFA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their respective bid.

(Sgd.) JESSUP P. NAVARRO
Assistant Administrator for Stabilization and Chairman, BAC Luzon

(Sgd.) LUDOVICO J. JARINA
Assistant Administrator for Industry Development and Chairman, BAC VisMin

(PDI – August 14 & 21, 2004)

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PUBLIC AUCTION

AUGUST 24, 2004 • TUESDAY • 2:00 p.m.
PLAZA LETICIA • 2nd Floor
Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City

CABANATUAN CITY

LOT 1 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 150sqm.
Lot 11 / Blk 13 Goldenville Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 345,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 150sqm.
Lot 12 / Blk 13 Goldenville Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 345,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 375sqm.
L22 B39 Antonio St. Kapt Pepe Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 713,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 240sqm.
Floor Area: 15 sqm.
L2B16 31St St., Kapt Pepe Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 562,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 337.5sqm.
L6 B17 Valenano St. Kapt. Pepe Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 718,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 337.5sqm.
L7 B17 Valenano St. Kapt Pepe Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 718,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 375sqm.
Floor Area: 154 sqm.
Lot 30/Blk 30 Assisi St. Kapt. Pepe Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 3,123,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 375sqm.
L28 B45 Calvitus St. Kapt Pepe Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 892,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 220sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 7, Brgy Daang Sarile
Minimum Bid Price: 225,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 317sqm.
L 3973-B-3-B-2-C-5-N, # 15 Kalikid Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 265,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 299sqm.
Floor Area: 135 sqm.
L3973-B-3-B-2-C-5-D, # 15 Kalikid Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 1,126,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 367sqm.
Lot 8 Block 5 Victoria Park Subd. Bitas
Minimum Bid Price: 523,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 241sqm.
Lot 18 / Blk 2 Wednesday St. Rlg Subd., Brgy Candad
Minimum Bid Price: 410,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 285sqm.
Lot 339-C-5-N-8 Nos. 768,769,771, 772 Purok IV San Nicolas Subdivision, Bantug Norte
Minimum Bid Price: 121,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 620sqm.
Lot 350-G-1 Sarenas St Sangitan Este
Minimum Bid Price: 2,405,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,522 sqm.
Floor Area: 118 sqm.
Lot 2240-A #498 Arenas St. (Dama De Noche) Brgy Mayapyap Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 533,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 324sqm.
Lot 7 Along Prov'l Road Bantug Norte
Minimum Bid Price: 1,296,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 855sqm.
Lot 3965-A F Romero St. Kalikid Norte
Minimum Bid Price: 146,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 443sqm.
Floor Area: 219 sqm.
Lot 1411-B Paco Roman St. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 6,789,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 520sqm.
Floor Area: 116 sqm.
L9B1 K-1454 Santol St. Villa Benita Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 1,067,000.00

BONGABON

LOT 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,280 sqm.
Lot 510-P & Lot 510-Q Brgy Macabaclay
Minimum Bid Price: 55,000.00

GEN. NATIVIDAD

LOT 22 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 5 Gatong Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price: 39,000.00

LLANERA

LOT 23 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 66, # 295 Valmonte St., Brgy. Victoria, Pob
Minimum Bid Price: 170,000.00

RIZAL

LOT 24 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,302 sqm.
Lot 1810-C-2 Brgy San Esteban
Minimum Bid Price: 88,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,229 sqm
Lot 15 Blk 6 Brgy Bicos
Minimum Bid Price: 261,000.00

PANTABANGAN

LOT 26 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 470sqm
Lot 433 Blk 3 Brgy Malbang
Minimum Bid Price: 60,000.00

LOT 27 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 473sqm
Lot 735 Poblacion East
Minimum Bid Price: 81,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 385sqm.
Lot 471 Cadena De Amor St., Purok 3, Brgy Malbang
Minimum Bid Price: 33,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 329sqm.
Lot 1010 Poblacion West
Minimum Bid Price: 63,000.00

SAN JOSE CITY

LOT 30 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 429sqm.
Lot 1769-A Bonifacio St. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 1,305,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,188 sqm.
Lot 2008-A-3 B Salumno St., Sibul
Minimum Bid Price: 1,515,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 349sqm.
Lot 1629-A Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 830,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 3 Christianville Subd., Abar I
Minimum Bid Price: 570,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 3 Christianville Subd., Abar I
Minimum Bid Price: 685,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 20,000sqm.
Lot 1 & Lot 7 Bgy A. Pascual
Minimum Bid Price: 340,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 440sqm.
Lot 1669-A A.O. Pascual St., Pob
Minimum Bid Price: 3,135,000.00

LOT 37 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 198sqm.
Lot 4 & Lot 5 / Blk 2 Curamen Monte Verde Heights, Barangay Sibul
Minimum Bid Price: 253,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 360sqm.
Floor Area: 126 sqm.
Lots 7&8 Blk 15 Molave & Ancnas Sts. Josephine Vill.
Minimum Bid Price: 930,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 115sqm.
L 2 B 3 Curamen-Monte Verde Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 219,000.00

CARANGLAN

LOT 40 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,258 sqm.
Lot 8 Brgy San Agustin
Minimum Bid Price: 130,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 477sqm.
Lot 283, Bonifacio St., Brgy Burgos
Minimum Bid Price: 31,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240sqm.
Lot 5 Purok 5 Brgy Bantug
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00

LUPAO

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 425sqm.
Floor Area: 122 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 14 Carpio St. Pob West
Minimum Bid Price: 480,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 720 sqm.
Lot 1024-T-26 & Lot 1024-T-25 Brgy San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price: 62,000.00

LOT 45 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,152 sqm.
Lot 1298-F San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price: 148,000.00

MUÑOZ

LOT 46 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,818.75 sqm.
Lot 1678-A, Along Maharlika Hi-Way Brgy Bantug
Minimum Bid Price: 2,738,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,023 sqm.
Lot 1386-G Malgaya
Minimum Bid Price: 696,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,020 sqm.
Lot 1386-H Malgaya
Minimum Bid Price: 867,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,168 sqm.
Floor Area: 60 sqm.
Lot 1386-J & Lot 1386-I Malgaya
Minimum Bid Price: 1,997,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 363sqm.
Floor Area: 123 sqm.
Lot 4-A-1 San Sebastian St
Minimum Bid Price: 1,240,000.00

LOT 51 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,050 sqm.
L 7-B Purok Matulungin Brgy Bagong Sikat
Minimum Bid Price: 357,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,593 sqm.
Lot 1280-B-6-L-6 Gabaldon
Minimum Bid Price: 100,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 783sqm.
Lot No. 1672-J Maharlika Hi-Way
Minimum Bid Price: 1,075,000.00

TALAVERA

LOT 54 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,849 sqm
Lot 184-B-7 Barangay Maestrang Kikay
Minimum Bid Price: 295,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 665sqm.
Floor Area: 53 sqm.
Lot 48-A-3-B & Lot 48-A-2-A-1-B Interior Brgy San Pascual
Minimum Bid Price: 293,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 441sqm
Lot 801-F Quezon St., Brgy. Maestrang Kikay, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 378,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 363sqm
Floor Area: 84 sqm.
Lot 302-B-19 Marcos District Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 440,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 200sqm.
Lot 302 B-18 Marcos District Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 170,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,796 sqm.
Lot 136-A-2, Along Maharlika Hi-Way Brgy Calipahan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,617,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 12,211.5 sqm.
Lot 91 Brgy. Bacal I, Maharlika Highway
Minimum Bid Price: 4,293,000.00

LOT 61 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,251 sqm.
Lot 1271 Bulac
Minimum Bid Price: 204,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,616 sqm.
Lot 1300 No. 523 Purok 2, Bulac
Minimum Bid Price: 294,000.00

GUIMBA

LOT 63 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 528sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 4 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 68,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT ONLY — WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT ONLY — WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

LOT 66 - LOT ONLY — WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT ONLY — WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 406sqm.
Lot 16 / Blk 2 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 104,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT ONLY — WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price: 115,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 5,537 sqm.
Lot 2036-B, Brgy San Roque
Minimum Bid Price: 360,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,503 sqm.
Lot 537-C-1, Brgy Cabaruan
Minimum Bid Price: 141,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 787 sqm.
Floor Area: 66 sqm.
Lots 1298-A-2 & 1298-B-2 #92 Interior P. Ramos St. Sto Cristo
Minimum Bid Price: 507,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,524 sqm.
Lot 2036-E, Brgy San Roque
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,410 sqm.
Lot 1334-C-2-B, Lot 1334-C-2-C, Lot 1334-C-2-D Brgy Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 660,000.00

LOT 75 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 149sqm.
Lot 1143-A-7, Int Medina St., San Veronica Dist., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 31,000.00

LOT 76 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 931sqm.
Lot 3761-D-2 & 3761-D-3 Balingog West
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

STO. DOMINGO

LOT 77 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 394sqm.
L2352-A #54 Pedro Pascual St Cabugao
Minimum Bid Price: 412,000.00

LOT 78 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 346sqm.
Lot 3, Prov'L Rd. Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 83,000.00

LOT 79 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 379sqm.
Lot 4 Prov'L Rd. Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 91,000.00

LOT 80 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 412sqm.
Lot 5 Prov'L Rd. Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 99,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 445sqm.
Lot 6 Prov'L Rd. Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 106,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 475sqm.
Lot 2, Prov'L Rd. Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 114,000.00

LOT 83 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 479sqm.
Lot 7 Prov'L Rd. Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 114,000.00

LOT 84 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 512sqm.
Lot 8 Prov'L Rd. Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 122,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 545sqm.
Lot 9 Prov'L Rd. Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 130,000.00

LOT 86 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 578sqm
Lot 10 Prov'L Rd. Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 138,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 792sqm
Lot 1 Prov'L Rd. Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 472,000.00

LOT 88 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 325sqm.
Lot 313-F Sto Rosario
Minimum Bid Price: 152,000.00

LOT 89 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 650sqm.
Floor Area: 75 sqm.
L 313-B & L 313-D Brgy Sto Rosario
Minimum Bid Price: 424,000.00

LOT 90 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 5,348 sqm.
Floor Area: 300 sqm
L2776-A P Pascual & J Garcia Sts Pob
Minimum Bid Price: 5,442,000.00

LOT 91 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 4,831 sqm.
Lot 3334-C Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: 159,000.00

LOT 92 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 741sqm.
Lot 3334-B Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: 189,000.00

LOT 93 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 15,499sqm
Lot 827 Brgy Gen Luna
Minimum Bid Price: 349,000.00

LICAB

LOT 94 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 5,083 sqm
Lot A Sitio Bantug Na Munti San Juan
Minimum Bid Price: 331,000.00

STA. ROSA

LOT 95 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,500 sqm.
Lot 2727-C-2-A, Brgy Mapalad
Minimum Bid Price: 255,000.00

LOT 96 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 191,100sqm.
Lot Nos 2197, 2203 2202 Bgy Mapalad
Minimum Bid Price: 1,494,000.00

JAEN

LOT 97 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,216 sqm.
Lot 2575, Burgos St. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 207,000.00

LOT 98 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,759 sqm.
Floor Area: 190 sqm.
Lot 2, Prov'L Rd. Cor. Nueva St. Pob
Minimum Bid Price: 3,201,000.00

GAPAN

LOT 99 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300sqm.
Lot-4-A-1A, #04 Sto Cristo
Minimum Bid Price: 255,000.00

LOT 100 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 372sqm.
Lot 3925 Gen Tinio & Del Carro Sts. San Lorenzo, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,395,000.00

LOT 101 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 405sqm.
Lot 3922 Gen Tinio & Del Carro Sts. San Lorenzo, Pob
Minimum Bid Price: 1,519,000.00

LOT 102 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,171 sqm.
Lot 1&2 Gen Tinio & Del Carro Sts. San Lorenzo, Pob
Minimum Bid Price: 4,392,000.00

LOT 103 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 244sqm.
Floor Area: 58 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 7 P. Cruz Subd Brgy Mangino
Minimum Bid Price: 204,000.00

LOT 104 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 378sqm.
Floor Area: 118 sqm.
Lot 568-A, # 144 Mangino
Minimum Bid Price: 360,000.00

LOT 105 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 772sqm.
L 3571-F, Brgy Puting Tubig Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price: 66,000.00

LOT 106 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 90,000sqm.
Lot 4728-C-6, Sitio Makatulang Brgy Makabaklay
Minimum Bid Price: 338,000.00

LOT 107 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 396sqm.
Floor Area: 128 sqm.
Lot 8-F,750 De Guzman Subd. Mangino
Minimum Bid Price: 584,000.00

LOT 108 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 269sqm.
Floor Area: 30 sqm.
Lot 504-I-6, P. Cruz, Brgy Mangino
Minimum Bid Price: 138,000.00

SAN ANTONIO

LOT 109 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,328 sqm.
Lot 1659-A-1 San Mariano West
Minimum Bid Price: 850,000.00

LOT 110 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 429sqm.
Lot 605-E, Brgy San Mariano
Minimum Bid Price: 255,000.00

SAN LEONARDO

LOT 111 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 645sqm.
Floor Area: 108 sqm.
Lot 717, Brgy San Bartolome (Burgos)
Minimum Bid Price: 246,000.00

LOT 112 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,991 sqm.
LOT B-1, Brgy Tabuating Maharlika Hiway
Minimum Bid Price: 592,000.00

LOT 113 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 360sqm.
Lot 2976-F Castellano
Minimum Bid Price: 270,000.00

SAN ISIDRO

LOT 114 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 204sqm.
L30B2 Ma Cristina Village, Brgy Malapit
Minimum Bid Price: 226,000.00

LOT 115 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,186 sqm.
Floor Area: 60 sqm.
Lot 1-C #279 P Carmen St Brgy Alua
Minimum Bid Price: 504,000.00

CABIAO

LOT 116 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 8,622 sqm.
L334 Old Prov'l Road San Fernando Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 1,017,000.00

LOT 117 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 882sqm.
Lot 4, Entablado
Minimum Bid Price: 187,000.00

LOT 118 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 726sqm.
Floor Area: 150 sqm.
Lot 438-F-2 Gapan Olongapo Rd, San Fernando Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 683,000.00

LOT 119 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,513 sqm.
Floor Area: 120 sqm.
Lot 721-A-1 Brgy Entablado
Minimum Bid Price: 378,000.00

LOT 120 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 408sqm.
Lot 198-A-9-G & Lot 198-A-2, San Antonio, Bagong Buhay
Minimum Bid Price: 190,000.00

LOT 121 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 443sqm.
Floor Area: 103 sqm.
Lot 3-A Brgy San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price: 555,000.00

PEÑARANDA

LOT 122 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 13,710sqm.
Lot 3172 San Jose
Minimum Bid Price: 52,000.00

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

CY LOPEZ PAWNSHOP INC. CAEG Bldg #7611 Dela Rosa St., Makati City #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City #15 Gen. Santos Ave. lower Bicutan Taguig Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on AUGUST 28, 2004 at 9:00am including all items pawned up to MARCH 2004. V. Zamora Jr. lic. Auctioneer.
(PDI - August 21, 2004)

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION
SEPT. 01, 2004
All unredeemed articles from April 1- 30, 2004
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•Pinatubo St. Mand City 10AM
•Libertad corner Sierra Madre Mand. City 11AM
•109 Dela Rosa St Mkti 1PM.
V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AURORA C. FLORES adjudicated by her surviving heir DEBORRAH S. MOSTOLES with TCT No. 106624 as per Doc. No. 206 Page No. 143 Book No. 4A Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Hector B. Centeno
(PDI-Aug. 14, 21 & 28, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEOCADIO T. DATU consisting of personal property was extrajudicially settled and adjudicated to his sole and only hair by means of a public instrument executed on 2 August 2004 and ratified before Atty Flor E. Egipto Notary Public in and for Quezon City as per Doc No. 5136 Page No. 184 Book No. VIII Series of 2004
(PDI Aug 21, 28 & Sept 4, 2004)

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Soprano Grace Chan performs in Makati

MANILA-BORN soprano Grace Chan obtained her Bachelor's degree in Opera Performance and her Master's degree in Voice Performance at the University of British Columbia. The recipient of numerous scholarships including the Vancouver Foundation Advanced Arts Study, The BC Arts Council and the Richmond Community Arts Council. She has performed in the mainstages of Vancouver Opera and The Silesian Opera House in the Czech Republic, the Burnaby Lyric Opera, and Viva Musica. She was highly acclaimed by Toronto critics for her feature role in "Iron Road", a world premier presentation of Tapestry New Opera Works and also garnered rave reviews as Bloody Mary in Theatre Under the Star's staging of "South Pacific" in Vancouver where she is currently based.

She balances an active performaing career with being a teacher, clinician, adjudicator, and conductor. Grace is an Affiliate Professor of Voice at the Trinity Western University.

After opening the Filipino Artists Series 2004 at CCP, Sinag Arts Foundation and Sinag-Tala joined hands in counting a concert for Grace Chan to those who missed the show. The concert is in cooperation with Equitable PCI-Bank, 98.7 DZFE-FM "Master's Touch," and philstar.com

Don't miss to watch and listen to Grace Chan with an 8 piece Cellist Ensemble, and guest Marvin Gayramon, baritone, Sept. 4, 2004, 8 pm at Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI-Bank, Makati Ave. cor HV dela Costa St., Makati. For reservation call 4211898; 5313491; 5319524; 7261297; 0918-9468252.

Heritage Park Receives Consumer Award

The Heritage Park in Fort Bonifacio was recently presented with the 2003 National Shopper's Choice Award for being the number one Memorial Park in the Philippines. On hand to receive the award at the Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City was Heritage Park's Director for Property Sales, Emmanuel Velandria (third from left). Together with Mr. Velandria in the photo are (from left), Awards Committee Chairman, Atty. Manuel Jose Oyson III,; Bb. Pilipinas 2003, Ms. Carla Gay Balingit; Political Affairs Officer of Senator Francisco Pangilinan, Ms. Daniela Fenix, Awards Night hosts Aya, and Carlo both from the UP College of Law. Other luminaries who attended the annual event were Senators Mar Roxas and Pia Cayetano.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

AUGUST 31, 2004 TUESDAY 2:00 p.m.
DYNASTY COURT HOTEL, CHING DYNASTY 1 - 4
Tiano Bros Corner Hayes Street Cagayan de Oro City

CAGAYAN DE ORO

BULUA

LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVMNT
Lot Area 231 sqm.
Floor Area 111 sqm.
L50 B7 280 Doña Leona Velez St., Apovel Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price 866,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVMNT
Lot Area 250 sqm.
Floor Area 162 sqm.
L15 B12 069 Amparo Velez St., Apovel Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price 996,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 250 sqm.
L22 B15 Eva Y Velez Street, Apovel Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price 594,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT & IMPROVMNT
Lot Area 250 sqm.
Floor Area 99 sqm.
L13 B17 Eva Y Velez Street, Apovel Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price 1,071,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 645 sqm.
L16 B12 Filipinas Jengke Street, Apovel Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price 1,655,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 241 sqm.
Floor Area 202 sqm.
L8 B26 Vicente Velez Street, Apovel Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price 1,165,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,146 sqm.
Lot 6027-C Zone 2
Minimum Bid Price 682,000.00

BALULANG

LOT 8 - LOT & IMPROVMNT
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Floor Area 128 sqm.
Lot 3121-A-1 & 3121-A-2 Balonguis
Minimum Bid Price 950,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,221 sqm.
Lot 37031-A
Minimum Bid Price 822,000.00

CITY PROPER

LOT 10 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 227 sqm.
L219 673 Burgos Street Bgy 10
Minimum Bid Price 1,158,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 418 sqm.
Floor Area 198 sqm.
L1 646 Burgos cor T. Chaves Streets, Bgy. 6
Minimum Bid Price 4,898,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 301 sqm.
Floor Area 140 sqm.
L495-A 73 C. Fernandez St. Bgy 1
Minimum Bid Price 3,996,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 400 sqm.
L574-A-2 Capistrano Street
Minimum Bid Price 7,220,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 481 sqm.
L583-C-2 Kalambagohan St Bgy 13
Minimum Bid Price 1,636,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 175 sqm. Floor Area 192 sqm.
(Lot 2) 545 Burgos-Kalambagohan Streets Bgy 15
Minimum Bid Price 1,069,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 254 sqm.
Floor Area 444 sqm.
L595-G & 595-F Tiano Bros Cor Kalambagohan Streets
Minimum Bid Price 5,936,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 718 sqm.
L811-D-3 & 811-D-2 Magsaysay Street Bgy 17
Minimum Bid Price 3,662,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 745 sqm.
Floor Area 364 sqm.
L1 Makahambus Street Bgy 15
Minimum Bid Price 6,500,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 435 sqm.
Floor Area 153 sqm.
L612-C-2 30 Makahambus Street
Minimum Bid Price 2,879,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 773 sqm.
L5 Interior J. Pacana Street
Minimum Bid Price 3,943,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 271 sqm.
L222-C C Pacana Street Bgy 10
Minimum Bid Price 922,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 479 sqm.
Floor Area 208 sqm.
L232-A 69 Yacapin Street
Minimum Bid Price 6,370,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 884 sqm. Floor Area 235 sqm.
L2-A-8-H & 2-A-9-I 1805 Anthonium St Green Vill.
Minimum Bid Price 2,605,000.00

CUGMAN

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,909 sqm. Floor Area 166 sqm.
L2476-B-2 Nat'l Highway, Zone 6
Minimum Bid Price 4,710,000.00

BUGO

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 371 sqm.
L5 B16 Gmelina St Reyes Subd
Minimum Bid Price 379,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 237 sqm.
L6 B4 40 Zone [illegible] Graymar Subd.
Minimum Bid P[illegible]20,000.00
SOLD

CALAANAN

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,034 sqm.
Floor Area 162 sqm.
L1-D P.N. Roa Subd. (Near Gate 2)
Minimum Bid Price 888,000.00

CAMAMAN-AN

LOT 28 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 198 sqm.
Floor Area 162 sqm.
L2076-B-5-E-18 Adela Subd
Minimum Bid Price 279,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 12,498 sqm.
L2860-A Tipolojon
Minimum Bid Price 2,152,000.00

BAYABAS

LOT 30 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,901 sqm.
Floor Area 158 sqm.
L5873-D Interior Lot
Minimum Bid Price 1,373,000.00

CARMEN

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Floor Area 124 sqm.
L14 B12 Turquoise St Golden Village
Minimum Bid Price 1,015,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 300 sqm.
Floor Area 80 sqm.
L18682-A-1 & 18682-A-2 Interior Dao St.
Minimum Bid Price 595,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,368 sqm.
L3807-A & Lot 1-A-1 Camiloan Road Zone 8
Minimum Bid Price 1,754,000.00

KAUSWAGAN

LOT 34 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,090 sqm.
Floor Area 187 sqm.
L5924-E-7 Bongbongon Zone 5
Minimum Bid Price 1,600,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 200 sqm.
L5923-A-1 Zone 5
Minimum Bid Price 170,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 200 sqm.
L5923-A-1-Bb Zone 5
Minimum Bid Price 170,000.00

LOT 37 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 200 sqm.
L5923-A-1-H Zone 5
Minimum Bid Price 170,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 215 sqm.
L5923-A-1-W Zone 5
Minimum Bid Price 183,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,389 sqm.
L13 B19 Interior Lot Bongbongon
Minimum Bid Price 1,525,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 420 sqm.
Floor Area 372 sqm.
L6569-J-2 Interior 6th Div
Minimum Bid Price 2,359,000.00

MACABALAN

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 241 sqm.
Floor Area 440 sqm.
L1962 C39 Punta
Minimum Bid Price 750,500.00

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 204 sqm.
Floor Area 128 sqm.
L7-J 8 Villarin Subd. Bgy 22
Minimum Bid Price 1,000,000.00

LOT 43 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 444 sqm.
L1888 NHA
Minimum Bid Price 604,000.00

MACASANDIG

LOT 44 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 578 sqm.
L182 B16 Aluba Subd Mandumol
Minimum Bid Price 1,098,000.00

LOT 45 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Floor Area 122 sqm.
L2971-J-1 510 St Tibasak
Minimum Bid Price 1,596,000.00

PATAG

LOT 46 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,101 sqm.
L13 B12 4343-A-1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 F Nen St. RER Subd & Patag
Minimum Bid Price 4,489,000.00

OPOL

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 280 sqm.
Floor Area 140 sqm.
L22 B6 Barra
Minimum Bid Price 854,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,158 sqm.
L5528-D, E & G Interior Igpit
Minimum Bid Price 805,300.00

LOT 51 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,052 sqm.
L5528-A Interior Igpit
Minimum Bid Price 268,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,052 sqm.
L5528-B Interior Igpit
Minimum Bid Price 268,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,052 sqm.
L5528-C Interior Igpit
Minimum Bid Price 268,000.00

EL SALVADOR

LOT 54 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,723 sqm.
L9503-A Binale, Sinaloc
Minimum Bid Price 197,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,722 sqm.
L9503-B Binale Sinaloc
Minimum Bid Price 240,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,722 sqm.
L9503-C Binale Sinaloc
Minimum Bid Price 246,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 358 sqm.
L9503-D Binale Sinaloc
Minimum Bid Price 46,000.00

MANTICAO

LOT 58 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 534 sqm.
L48
Minimum Bid Price 51,000.00

LAPASAN

LOT 59 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 579 sqm.
L1055 Fernandez Cor Bacongs Sts
Minimum Bid Price 6,051,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 298 sqm.
L7162-B-1 Mika-Jalar Rd
Minimum Bid Price 1,200,000.00

GUSA

LOT 61 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 760 sqm.
L4 B8 Sta. Cecilia Village
Minimum Bid Price 2,500,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 400 sqm.
Floor Area 68 sqm.
L28 B3 along Subd. Road Capistrano Subd
Minimum Bid Price 2,410,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 400 sqm.
L30 B3 along Subd. Road Capistrano Subd
Minimum Bid Price 2,155,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 400 sqm.
L32 B3 along Subd. Road Capistrano Subd
Minimum Bid Price 2,155,000.00

LOT 66 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 934 sqm.
Floor Area 168 sqm.
L2 384 B18-A Virgo cor Hercules Sts Villa Ernesto Subd
Minimum Bid Price 2,465,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 410 sqm.
L60 B17 Aquarius Cor Capricorn Sts. Villa Ernesto Subd Ph I
Minimum Bid Price 1,160,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 240 sqm.
L36 B27 Aquarius St Villa Ernesto
Minimum Bid Price 684,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 240 sqm.
L28 B27 Aquarius St Villa Ernesto
Minimum Bid Price 684,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 380 sqm.
Floor Area 370 sqm.
L2431-A-1 along Nat'l Highway
Minimum Bid Price 3,916,000.00

TABLON

LOT 71 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,076 sqm.
L22562-C-4 Lapasan Purok 1
Minimum Bid Price 667,000.00

TIN-AO

LOT 72 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,570 sqm.
Floor Area 339 sqm.
L22060-A along Nat'l Highway
Minimum Bid Price 7,555,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,568 sqm.
L22060-B along National Highway
Minimum Bid Price 6,800,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,569 sqm.
L22069-C along National Highway
Minimum Bid Price 6,800,000.00

LOT 75 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,560 sqm.
L22060-D along Nat'l Highway
Minimum Bid Price 6,800,000.00

TAGOLOAN

LOT 76 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 242 sqm.
Floor Area 68 sqm.
L2047 336 Esperanza St Bgy 1 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 530,000.00

LOT 77 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,830 sqm.
Floor Area 60 sqm.
L1377-C-1 along Nat'l Highway, Casinglot
Minimum Bid Price 1,629,000.00

JASAAN

LOT 78 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,224 sqm.
Lot 7401, Old Nat'l H-Way Solana
Minimum Bid Price 2,055,000.00

LAGONGLONG

LOT 79 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 858 sqm.
Floor Area 200 sqm.
L42 Eblamo & Cabunoc Sts Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 900,000.00

BALINGASAG

LOT 80 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 223 sqm.
Floor Area 109 sqm.
L630 146 M. E. Mundo St
Minimum Bid Price 289,000.00

CAMIGUIN

LOT 81 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 400 sqm.
L4040 Upper Cogon Agoho, Mambajao
Minimum Bid Price 30,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,967 sqm.
L2031 Bonbon Sagay
Minimum Bid Price 144,000.00

GINGOOG CITY

GINGOOG CITY

LOT 83 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 212 sqm.
Floor Area 88 sqm.
L10 Ragasajo cor A. Bagl Sts., Cabuyoan Subd. Bgy 27-A Minimum Bid Price 498,000.00

LOT 84 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,630 sqm.
L1177-F Interior Portion Sao Subd., Bgy 26
Minimum Bid Price 624,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 340 sqm.
Floor Area 134 sqm.
L23 Don Sonano Drive South Paz Vil., Bgy 24-A
Minimum Bid Price 906,000.00

LOT 86 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 125 sqm.
Floor Area 186 sqm.
Lot 103 Lugod St Bgy 13
Minimum Bid Price 318,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 221 sqm.
L484 Jadol cor Mendoza Sts Bgy 17
Minimum Bid Price 132,000.00

LOT 88 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,184 sqm.
Floor Area 131 sqm.
L6-C Nat'l Highway Bgy 23
Minimum Bid Price 3,546,000.00

LOT 89 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 754 sqm.
Floor Area 149 sqm.
L752 Nat'l Highway Bgy 23
Minimum Bid Price 3,189,000.00

MEDINA

LOT 90 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,437 sqm.
L8 Ragot cor Ebarle Sts. North Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 539,000.00

LOT 91 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 377 sqm.
Floor Area 109 sqm.
L6-C-1 Teo St. South Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 664,000.00

LOT 92 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,127 sqm.
L2 South Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 469,000.00

MAGSAYSAY

LOT 93 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,189 sqm.
Floor Area 336 sqm.
L1480-A Nat'l Highway Bgy Kibungsod
Minimum Bid Price 2,206,000.00

LOT 94 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,767 sqm.
L669 Old Nat'l Highway [illegible]
Minimum Bid Price 151,000.00

MARAWI

LOT 95 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,705 sqm.
L237-A-3-C Bgy. Tuuh
Minimum Bid Price 751,000.00

GUARANTEED FINANCING - FIXED INTEREST UP TO 10 YRS - 10% DOWNPAYMENT FOR LOTS - 25% DOWNPAYMENT FOR DEVELOPED PROPERTIES - ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS - PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
SHOW MONEY PhP 25,000.00 CASH or MANAGERS CHECK. PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO ENSURE SEATS AND PARKING.
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OR CALL AMG NORTHERN MINDANAO: TEL. # (088) 857-5545 LOCAL 6345 - BONG: (0922) 806-2326

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PUBLIC AUCTION
BATANGAS PROPERTIES

AUGUST 27, 2004 • FRIDAY • 2:00 p.m.
CASA CECILIA HERITAGE HOTEL
• La Azotea Restaurant •
Diversion Road, Taal, Batangas

LEMERY

LOT 1 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,600 sqm
Floor Area 88 sqm
Lot 3211 Pt., Arumahan
Minimum Bid Price 433,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 315 sqm
Floor Area 80 sqm
Lot 8858 Pt. Bagong Pook
Minimum Bid Price 441,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 87 sqm
Floor Area 110 sqm
Lot 2972 Nat'l Rd
Minimum Bid Price 529,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 100 sqm
Floor Area 120 sqm
Lot 1-E, Valenzuela St
Minimum Bid Price 603,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,199.60 sqm
Floor Area 63 sqm
Lot 71, Along Barrio Rd. Ayao-Iyao
Minimum Bid Price 634,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 55 sqm.
Floor Area 82 sqm
Lot 6-B-1, Villamin St
Minimum Bid Price 658,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 227 sqm
Floor Area 100 sqm.
Lot 4330 Nat'l Rd. Dayapan
Minimum Bid Price 678,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,400 sqm
Floor Area 75 sqm.
Nat'l Rd., Brgy Dayapan
Minimum Bid Price 982,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 187.20 sqm
Floor Area 50 sqm
Lot 9, Blk 3, San Roque Subd
Minimum Bid Price 698,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 328 sqm
Floor Area 110 sqm
Lot 6582 Pt. Brgy Bucal
Minimum Bid Price 767,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 287 sqm
Floor Area 150 sqm.
L 6302, Nat'l Rd., Brgy Malinggam
Minimum Bid Price 843,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 310 sqm
Floor Area 165 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 3 Carnero Subd
Minimum Bid Price 2,179,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 151 sqm
Floor Area 64 sqm.
Lot 5587, Corner P. Burgos & Alvenza Sts., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 3,108,000.00

TAAL

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 168 sqm
Floor Area 85 sqm
Lot 5285, Buli
Minimum Bid Price 377,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 111 sqm
Floor Area 115 sqm
Lot 2443, Bolbok
Minimum Bid Price 554,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 200 sqm
Floor Area 78 sqm
Lot 1064 Pt. J.P. Rizal St
Minimum Bid Price 559,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 678 sqm
Floor Area 62 sqm
Lot 2269 Along Brgy Rd. Tulo
Minimum Bid Price 630,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 450 sqm.
Floor Area 87 sqm
Lot 4967 Brgy Buli
Minimum Bid Price 657,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 89 sqm
Floor Area 144 sqm
L3380, Prov'l Road Brgy Seiran
Minimum Bid Price 661,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 707 sqm
Floor Area 121 sqm
L2268 Along Barangay Road Tulo
Minimum Bid Price 913,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,552 sqm.
Floor Area 40 sqm
Lot 2705Pt Brgy Latag
Minimum Bid Price 918,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 3,320 sqm
Floor Area 110 sqm
Lot 2009 Along Barrio Rd. Tulo
Minimum Bid Price 1,467,000.00

SAN NICOLAS

LOT 23 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 340 sqm
Floor Area 73 sqm.
Lot 055, Brgy. Calangay
Minimum Bid Price 246,000.00

AGONCILLO

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 246 sqm
Floor Area 52 sqm.
Lot 071 Blk 9 Along Barrio Rd., Subic Ibaba
Minimum Bid Price 269,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 941 sqm
Floor Area 118 sqm
Lot 043 Blk 8, San Jacinto
Minimum Bid Price 591,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,441 sqm
Floor Area 92 sqm
Lot 005 Blk 3, Brgy Gulina
Minimum Bid Price 810,000.00

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 891 sqm.
Floor Area 245 sqm.
L# 55, R. Mendoza St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 1,508,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,504 sqm
Floor Area 200 sqm.
Lot 3, R. Mendoza St. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 2,040,000.00

CALACA

LOT 29 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 394 sqm.
Floor Area 115 sqm
Lot 2-B-2-1-2, Puting Bato
Minimum Bid Price 545,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,039 sqm
Lot 3-A Bagong Tubig
Minimum Bid Price 1,793,000.00

SAN LUIS

LOT 31 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 662 sqm
Lot 2373 Pt Calumpang East
Minimum Bid Price 261,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 381 sqm
Floor Area 162 sqm
Lot 2373 Pt Calumpang East
Minimum Bid Price 573,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 319 sqm.
Floor Area 95 sqm.
Lot 2373 Pt Calumpang East
Minimum Bid Price 607,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,973 sqm
Floor Area 52 sqm
Lot 4673 w/ Rrow, Balaglasin
Minimum Bid Price 495,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 411 sqm
Floor Area 133 sqm.
Calumpang East
Minimum Bid Price 571,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 457 sqm
Floor Area 125 sqm.
Lot 2244, Calumpang East
Minimum Bid Price 630,000.00

LOT 37 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 304 sqm.
Floor Area 130 sqm
Lot 4-A, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 631,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,468 sqm
Floor Area 103 sqm
Along Barrio Road Brgy Talon
Minimum Bid Price 675,000.00

ALITAGTAG

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 433 sqm
Floor Area 64 sqm
Lot 752, Poblacion West
Minimum Bid Price 550,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 520 sqm
Floor Area 206 sqm
Lot 1620Pt Brgy Concepcion
Minimum Bid Price 1,507,000.00

SAN JOSE

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 6,091 sqm
Floor Area 82 sqm
Lot 8728 Along Brgy Rd. Balaglasin II
Minimum Bid Price 754,000.00

STA. TERESITA

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 337 sqm
Floor Area 55 sqm
L522, Along Barrio Rd Poblacion III
Minimum Bid Price 438,000.00

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 387 sqm
Floor Area 95 sqm
Lot 1694-B Along Rrow Brgy Calayaan
Minimum Bid Price 528,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 206 sqm.
Floor Area 84 sqm
L1879, National Road Bo. Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price 578,000.00

LOT 45 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 453 sqm
Floor Area 120 sqm
Lot 1860 & 1959, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price 957,000.00

LOT 46 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,212 sqm
Floor Area 130 sqm
Lot No 990 Brgy Pacifico
Minimum Bid Price 1,114,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,075 sqm
Floor Area 209 sqm.
Lot 1688, Calayaan
Minimum Bid Price 1,205,000.00

LIPA CITY

LOT 48 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 858 sqm
Lot 11839-A, Int. Brgy. Antipolo Del Sur
Minimum Bid Price 193,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 462 sqm
Lot 5 Blk 2, Acelia Homes Subd., Antipolo Del Norte
Minimum Bid Price 1,580,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 801 sqm
Lot 847-B-3, Int. B. Morada Ave
Minimum Bid Price 5,107,000.00

MALVAR

LOT 51 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 306 sqm.
Lot Nos. 3881 & 3880 Brgy San Andres
Minimum Bid Price 143,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 578 sqm
Lot 2134 Along Brgy. Rd. San Gregorio
Minimum Bid Price 147,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,897 sqm
Lot 2511 Interior Brgy. San Isidro West
Minimum Bid Price 214,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 330 sqm.
Floor Area 84 sqm.
Lot 1641-B Prov'l Rd. Brgy. San Pedro 1 (East)
Minimum Bid Price 468,000.00

TANAUAN

LOT 55 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 697 sqm
Lot 8560, Int Brgy Montana
Minimum Bid Price 66,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,250 sqm.
Floor Area 144 sqm
Lot 5, Brgy Rd., Banjo East
Minimum Bid Price 772,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 960 sqm.
Floor Area 126 sqm.
Lot 2614-A, Brgy. Tinurik
Minimum Bid Price 999,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 270 sqm
Floor Area 200 sqm
L7 B3, Maligaya Compound Sambat
Minimum Bid Price 977,000.00

TALISAY

LOT 59 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 954 sqm
Floor Area 32 sqm
Lot 335 Brgy. Tranca
Minimum Bid Price 204,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 335 sqm.
Floor Area 45 sqm
C.M. Recto St. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 423,000.00

LOT 61 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 317 sqm
Floor Area 40 sqm.
C.M. Recto St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 446,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 836 sqm
Floor Area 192 sqm
Along Prov'l Rd., Brgy. Sampaloc
Minimum Bid Price 556,000.00

SAN JUAN

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 5[illegible]1 sqm
Floor Area 74 sqm.
Lot 5255/018 Sec 07 Along Brgy. Balagbag
Minimum Bid Price 193,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 666 sqm
Floor Area 58 sqm
Lot 159 Pt 13 Sec 35 Interior Marasigan St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 369,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 445 sqm.
Lot 156 Blk 3 Marasigan St. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 635,000.00

STO. TOMAS

LOT 66 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,227 sqm.
Floor Area 183 sqm.
Lot4119 Brgy San Juan
Minimum Bid Price 1,701,000.00

BATANGAS CITY

LOT 67 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 591 sqm
Floor Area 240 sqm.
Lots 63 And 64 Along Subd. Rd., Arce Subdivision, Kumintang Ibaba
Minimum Bid Price 3,022,000.00

IBAAN

LOT 68 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,493 sqm
Floor Area 32 sqm
Lots 1724 & 7272 Along Prov'l Rd., Balanga
Minimum Bid Price 440,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,586 sqm.
Floor Area 127 sqm
Lot 1715-A Brgy Balanga
Minimum Bid Price 504,000.00

ROSARIO

LOT 70 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,814 sqm
Lot L-6385 Prov'l Rd Brgy Baybayin
Minimum Bid Price 830,000.00

PADRE GARCIA

LOT 71 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 230 sqm
Lot 855-C-2 Along Subd. Rd. Brgy Bawi
Minimum Bid Price 137,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 373 sqm.
Lot 655-C-1 cor Subd. Rd. & Prov'l Rd. Brgy Bawi
Minimum Bid Price 222,000.00

LAUREL

LOT 73 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 758 sqm.
Floor Area 112 sqm.
L1939 National Road Brgy Berinayan
Minimum Bid Price 854,000.00

LIAN

LOT 74 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 363 sqm
Lot 21 Cudiman St. Binubusan
Minimum Bid Price 337,000.00

NASUGBU

LOT 75 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 445 sqm
Lot 3 Blk 14, Oliva Subd
Minimum Bid Price 379,000.00

LOT 76 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 309.5 sqm
Floor Area 111 sqm
Lot 1031-B P. Reñosa
Minimum Bid Price 966,000.00

BALAYAN

LOT 77 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 8[illegible] sqm
Floor Area 80 sqm
Lot 2 Brgy. Pook
Minimum Bid Price 255,000.00

LOT 78 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 257 sqm
Floor Area 77 sqm
Lot 1891, Sampaga
Minimum Bid Price 445,000.00

LOT 79 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,548 sqm
Lot F-2231-D Along Barangay Road (Dambalelos St.) Brgy. IV
Minimum Bid Price 1,147,000.00

LOT 80 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,552 sqm
Floor Area 225 sqm
Lot 2372-H Brgy San Piro
Minimum Bid Price 1,185,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,162 sqm
L3991-F-9-A, Dambalelos St. Brgy IV
Minimum Bid Price 4,358,000.00

CALATAGAN

LOT 82 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 253 sqm
Floor Area 158 sqm
L1-B-20-B-2, Salazar St. Pob I
Minimum Bid Price 661,000.00

LOT 83 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 457 sqm
Floor Area 80 sqm
Lot 59, Brgy Rd., Lucsuhin
Minimum Bid Price 325,000.00

LOT 84 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,497.8 sqm
Floor Area 176 sqm
Lots 47-B & 47-C, Prov'l Road Brgy Lucsuhin
Minimum Bid Price 1,854,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 10,000 sqm
Lot 11-B-7 Poblacion 3
Minimum Bid Price 3,375,000.00

GUARANTEED FINANCING • FIXED INTEREST UP TO 10 YEARS • 10% DOWNPAYMENT FOR LOTS • 25% DOWNPAYMENT FOR DEVELOPED PROPERTIES
ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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8:00 - 10:00 AM
8:00 - 10:00 PM

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1997 Nissan Sentra 1.6 SS/FEE-890
2001 Ford Lynx GSI A/T /WTW-853

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./ Dick Cariño. Tel.# 878-54-57

Food Terminal Inc.

AVAILABLE AREA FOR LEASE AT FTI - SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

Lots 85 - A & B

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Lot Area - 10,012 m² @ P 73.50/m²/mo.

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website: fti.gov.ph

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region Office 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE OF RE-AUCTION OF RAW SUGAR "B" STOCKS

The National Food Authority, Regional Office 10, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City invites all interested licensed sugar traders, industrial users and other interested buyers to participate and tender offers in the auction for the whole lot of 102,615.35 Lkg. Raw Sugar "B" or Domestic Sugar located at the following sugar mill

LOT	PROVINCE	SUGAR MILL	QUANTITY (In Lkg)	INDICATIVE PRICE (P/Lkg)
1	Bukidnon	Crystal Milling Corporation	102,615.35	P760.00, Net of Liens ex-mill

The sale shall be for the total volume ex-mill on an "as-is-where-is" and no selection basis.

All interested offerors are required to post a Bid Bond equivalent to 10% of the total amount offered in the form of Cash / Manager's Check or PNB Demand Draft payable to NFA.

Only prospective bidders who have submitted the following requirements to the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) prior to Auction proper are qualified to participate.

1. Original and one (1) certified photocopy of Sugar Trading License / DTI Registration / Mayor's Permit.
2. Original and one (1) certified photocopy of SEC / CDA Registration for partnership / cooperative.
3. Duly notarized Special Power of Attorney from the sole proprietor or Board Resolution from the secretary/chairman certifying that the representative is presently connected with the entity as an official / employee / stockholder and is authorized to represent the same in the Auction and all activities pertinent therein.

The auction shall be conducted at the NFA-10 Regional Office Conference Room, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City on the following schedule.

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME
Submission of Requirements	Aug 30, 2004	8:30-10:00 A.M.
Pre-Auction Conference	Aug 30, 2004	10:00 A.M.

Auction Proper will follow after the Pre-Auction Conference

The auction terms and conditions and tender forms can be secured from the RBAC Secretariat at NFA-10, Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City, after payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such bids which in its judgment are deemed most reasonable and advantageous to the NFA.

For more details, please contact the RBAC Secretariat Head, Ms. Emma P. Asiñero at Telephone Nos. (088-22) - 732215 and (088)-8552721

(Sgd.) CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO
Asst. Regional Director
RBAC NORMIN Chairman

(PDI – August 21 & 23, 2004)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

SPC DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will sell **check printing equipment such as: Bull printing (text & MICR), Wilstead cheque processing, Hohner stitcher, Boston stitcher (single) CEM Ancillary printing machine, and others.** Sealed bids must be received by the Committee not later than 10:00 A.M. on August 31, 2004 at Room 504, 5th Floor, Building A, BSP Security Plant complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interested parties may inspect the said items during regular working days from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 to 2:30 P.M. at the BSP Security Plant Complex on or before August 30, 2004.

Forms and further information may be obtained from the Committee's Executive Officer Ms. Rouena L. Rosal, Room 405, 4th Floor Building A, BSP Security Plant Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Tel. No. 920-2003.

(Sgd.) ORLANDO B. ASIDDAO
Chairman

(PDI – August 21, 2004)

PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID

The PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY (PEA) is inviting interested parties to participate in the public bidding for the sale or lease of eleven (11) lots on a serviced land basis, located at the Central Business Park 1 A, Bay City (formerly known as Boulevard 2000), Pasay City, for mixed use or commercial development purposes.

1. Properties for sale or lease

BLK	LOT		AREA[1] (m^2)	MODE
A1	1	corner	3,843	SALE
A2	1	corner	3,462	SALE
A2	2	interior	2,568	SALE
A2	3	interior	2,611	SALE
A2	4	interior	2,573	SALE
A2	5	corner	3,321	SALE
A3	1	corner	2,500	SALE
A3	2	interior	2,222	SALE
B4		portion	5,825	SALE OR LEASE
B7		portion	4,648	SALE OR LEASE
B5		whole	18,348	SALE OR LEASE

[1]Subject to final survey

2. Qualified bidders
   Sale: Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any government owned or controlled corporations and any government financial institution or any public corporation, which have complied with the requirements established by PEA for this bidding.
   Lease: Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any partnership, association or corporation, public or private of which at least 60% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is organized and constituted under the laws of the Philippines.
3. Interested qualified parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or Manager's/Cashier's Check starting 12 August until 8 September 2004 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Marketing Department, 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati MM.
4. Required pre-qualification documents and duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms of Reference shall be submitted to the PEA Real Estates Bid and Awards Committee (PREBAC) on 22 September 2004 on or before 1:00 PM. Public opening of bids shall follow at 1:30 PM, of the same day.
5. For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address at telephone number 817-4711 to 13 (trunk line) and 813-7103 to 7104 (direct lines).

(Sgd.) TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD
General Manager/CEO

(PDI – Aug. 11, 16, 21, 26, Sept. 2 & 6, 2004)

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kalinaya Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No.: 712-2782

104 years

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK FORT BONIFACIO
Memorial Park
Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE OF THANKS

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

REQUIEMS

FREE OBIT DESIGN

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

The
Board of Directors & Officers
of
TG INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORP.

convey their deepest sympathy to the family of their President for the demise of her mother

NG SIU HUA vda. de CHUA CO KIONG

who peacefully joined our Lord on 18 August 2004 at the age of 86.

Her body lies in state at the Superior Chapel, Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 22 August 2004 at 11:00 a.m at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City. The hearse will depart from Funeraria Paz at 9:00 a.m.

The
Management & Staff
of
C.K. BAKERS' CENTER, INC.

wish to convey their deepest sympathy to the family of their President whose mother

NG SIU HUA vda. de CHUA CO KIONG

who peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 86.

Her body lies in state at the Superior Chapel, Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 22 August 2004 at 11:00 a.m at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City. The hearse will depart from Funeraria Paz at 9:00 a.m.

The
Board of Directors, Officers & Staff
of
BNC INGREDIENTS CORPORATION

convey their heartfelt condolences to the family of their President whose mother

NG SIU HUA vda. de CHUA CO KIONG

passed away in the Grace of our Lord last 18 August 2004 at the age of 86.

Her remains lie in state at the Superior Chapel, Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 22 August 2004 at 11:00 a.m at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City. The hearse will depart from Funeraria Paz at 9:00 a.m.

The
Management & Staff
of
WILLS INTERNATIONAL SALES CORP.

wish to condole with the family of their President for the demise of his mother

NG SIU HUA vda. de CHUA CO KIONG

who peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 86.

Her remains lie in state at the Superior Chapel, Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 22 August 2004 at 11:00 a.m at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City. The hearse will depart from Funeraria Paz at 9:00 a.m.

Filomena Cariño David

Our beloved mother is now with our father, Cezar, and peacefully rests in God's infinite warmth. She died last August 18, 2004 at the age of 95.

Her loving children **Chito** and wife **Angie, Jane, Karen** and **Marivi**, her loving grandchildren **Lizza May, Ma. Pamela, Cenrree** and **Cezzlyn Ann**; her relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels (Chapel 1), Marikina City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 22, 2004 at the Garden of Paradise, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City at 3:00 p.m.

The
Directors, Officers, Management & Staff
of
SANKEI PHILIPPINES, INC.

join the family of their President & Managing Director in praying for the eternal repose of the soul of his mother

NG SIU HUA vda. de CHUA CO KIONG

who peacefully joined her Creator last 18 August 2004 at the age of 86.

Her remains lie in state at the Superior Chapel, Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 22 August 2004 at 11:00 a.m at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City. The hearse will depart from Funeraria Paz at 9:00 a.m.

Message of Thanks

LOLITA MAZA ASPREC

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 31, 2004.

Her family extend their wholehearted gratitude to all who have prayed for the eternal repose of her soul.

"Mommy, we love you very much, may you find the total happiness, peace and ultimate Grace in Lord's hands."

In Loving Memory
on the occasion of the
1st Death Anniversary

EARL KNOWLES WILKINSON

15 March 1927 – 21 August 2003

His family request relatives, friends and pious readers to please remember him in their prayers.

God says I will save those who love...
I will be with them...
I will save them.
(Psalm 91:14-16)

ATTY. VICENTE C. TABAC

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 18, 2004 at the age of 79.

He is survived by his loving wife **Cely**; children and son-in-law **Ditas** & **Pinky**, **Tony**, **Araceli** and **Yvonne**; grandchildren **Rhea** and **April**.

Relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 25, 2004 at The Haritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig after the 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

We, the family of the late

Dr. Doroteo "Dodge" L. Espina

of Puerto Princesa City

who joined the Lord on August 6, 2004

wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends, and all those who sent condolences, flowers, donations, offered Masses and prayers, called from abroad, attended the funeral rites and helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Text us your feedback: Inquirer hea name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

HEALTHFIX

INQUIRERGRAPHIC: Text and art by LYNETT A. VILLARIBA / 8.21.2004

Use your coconuts

• In the last 40 years of the coconut's 4,000-year existence, biochemists unlocked its healing secrets as a unique combination of medium-chain fatty acids (MCFAs) that makes virgin coconut oil an easily digestible antimicrobial against most lipid-coated bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites found in the body. • It is the richest source of lauric acid (53 percent), one of only few substances that can effectively kill viruses with no harmful side effects.

Daily dose
(for adults averaging 150 lbs) equal in proportion to MCFAs in mothers' milk that babies get

1/2 coconut of fiber, protein and fat substance

64% oil
22 gms fiber

2 1/2 cups grated white meat

40% oil

10 oz first-pressed coconut milk

Mild coconut aroma • Mildly sweet taste • Water white color • • Liquid form in 25° Celsius and solid in lower temperature.

3 1/2 tbsps Virgin coconut oil

1 Seed. In the womb of the seed, alchemic transformation of water and oil into solid meat takes place at 12 months. • The flesh hardens and becomes a rich source of dietary fiber. • Within the fiber and protein is 67 percent fat substance that biochemists and nutritionists have only lately found to be the healthiest dietary oil, outperforming even olive oil.

2 Meat. The meat of a mature seed provides three times as much fiber as vegetables, as much protein as vegetables, and 64 percent easily absorbable oil the body needs for proper digestive function. • When grated, the white meat can be made into low-calorie, high-fiber toppings for starchy, sweet native cakes. • Eaten raw as shredded, dessicated or whole, coconut meat supplies vitamins B-1, B-2, B-3, B-6, C, E, folic acid, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, iron, potassium, sodium and zinc.

3 Milk. When cold-pressed under 40 degrees Celsius, grated meat yields natural coconut milk that retains heat-sensitive vitamin E, enzymes and antioxidants with the antimicrobial fatty acids. • Coconut milk from first press can be used as a healthy creamer for drinks, smoothies, and native culinary dishes. • To release its 40 percent fatty acids into pure concentrated oil, the milk emulsion is allowed to settle for fermentation in reverse alchemy. • In the emulsion, a natural protein holds the oil in solution. • Within 17 to 36 hours, the coconut's natural enzymes start to break this protein down, releasing the oil to the top. • As the oil floats, it is siphoned off as raw unprocessed virgin oil.

4 Oil. Virgin oil is extracted from fresh coconuts with no chemicals added. • It is different from refined, bleached, deodorized oils made from aged copra. • When extracted using low or no heat, virgin-quality oil appears water white with a mild natural coconut scent. • When cold-pressed fresh with its moisture effectively reduced, it tastes mildly sweet. • In food grade, it has natural vitamin E, very low moisture and free fatty acid content, and zero peroxide value (for rancidity). • Non-hydrogenated coconut oils liquify above 25 degrees Celsius.

spoon meat

7% oil

young coconut juice drink

Young coconuts

5 Coconut juice. It takes almost nine months to filter each liter of water inside the shell, travelling through many fibers which purify it before it gets in the sterile nut. • Clear coconut water is one of the highest sources of electrolytes found in nature identical to human blood plasma. • During World War II, young coconut water was successfully used as a substitute for saline drip, saving the lives of many soldiers. • It is a diuretic that dissolves kidney stones.

6 Spoon meat. The soft spoon meat of young coconuts is an energy- and immune system-booster that even babies can digest. • A raw saturated fat, it has a remarkable ability to restore tissue oxidative damage.

Oil you need for health

A) A drop of raw virgin coconut oil (captured in Kirlian photo emitting high energy) effectively overpowers B) a lipid-coated virus

• Only when virgin coconut oil is eaten or applied on our skin does its medium-chain triglycerides of mainly lauric fatty acid convert into a powerful antimicrobial monolaurin, the same substance found in mothers' milk. • The smaller medium-chain fatty acids break apart the lipid or fat membranes of viruses, bacteria, yeasts and fungi. • Mimicking the fatty acids in a microbe's membrane, coconut oil confuses the unsuspecting microbe, causing it to spill its genetic contents and become easy prey for white blood cells to consume.

- antibacterial
- antifungal
- antiviral
- antiparasitic
- strengthens immune system
- provides quick energy
- improves digestion, nutrient absorption
- reduces risk of heart disease
- helps control diabetes
- helps prevent osteoporosis
- reduces risk of cancer
- promotes weight loss
- helps keep skin soft and smooth

medium-chain saturated fatty acids

- smaller molecules make fatty acids easily digestible, stimulate metabolism, provide energy more quickly
- makes oil stable and will not turn rancid in oxidation and heat or create trans fatty acids
- all-in-one combination of antiviral, antibacterial, antiprotozoal fatty acids

Sources: Bruce Fife N.D., "The Healing Miracles of Coconut Oil" / David Wolfe, "Eating for Beauty" / Dr. Conrado Dayrit, "Coconut for Better Health" / VCO Philippines

Healthy snacks for school kids

By Charles E. Buban

FOR PUBLIC schoolchildren in the '70s and '80s, a day would not be complete without having a bite of Nutribun every school recess.

Back then, the Nutribun—a bun fortified with vitamins and minerals—was the government's way of giving daily nutritional supplement to lower-income children in public schools.

Since then, the government has looked into other cost-effective, long-term strategies to supplement the nutrition of these schoolchildren. Most recent among these is the Sangkap Pinoy Seal program of the Department of Health, which encourages food manufacturers to fortify their products with essential micronutrients at DOH-approved levels.

"Despite these programs, children are still not getting enough nutrition. We should realize that government alone can't complete the job. It would need the participation of everybody to deal with this complex problem," says Coca-Cola Philippines community relations manager Maria Cindy Ching-Lim.

THESE children enjoy a nutritious snack of Nutrimo Curls and orange juice drink.

NutriBreak

The soft drinks giant recently embarked on a six-month nutrition and hydration program in two selected areas: Kirang Elementary School in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya and Nabaoy Elementary School in Malay, Aklan.

The program, called NutriBreak, was conducted in partnership with the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, the Department of Education, DOH and the Benguet State University, which worked with the FNRI to produce the snack.

"This innovative feeding program is a component of Coca-Cola Philippines' Healthy and Active Lifestyle program, which advocates the value of a daily balanced diet, proper hydration and adequate physical activity," says Lim.

She says NutriBreak is an experiment on a unique and innovative approach in addressing undernutrition/malnutrition among public schoolchildren that if found effective may be adopted by the national or local government, or by the communities themselves.

Tasty snack

NutriBreak deviated from the usual rice porridge-and-water staple. In its place, the program provided a tasty finger snack called Nutrimo Curls paired with a Sangkap Pinoy-approved Eight O' Clock orange juice drink.

FNRI Food Science and Technology Division chief science research specialist Dr. Mario Capanzana says the Nutrimo was actually the rice-mung bean curls developed by the institute.

"It's a very good alternative to the chips and curls that schoolchildren nowadays are very fond of," says Capanzana.

The Nutrimo is made up of 70 parts rice grits and 30 parts mung bean grits, yielding 479 kilo calories and 13.3 grams protein per 100 grams.

"We made it look and taste just like the regular snack such that schoolchildren won't know the difference. Much more, it will be better than *lugaw* (rice porridge) and Nutribun because it is convenient and fun to eat, apart from the fact that this snack can be eaten in any place at any time," he adds.

Energy, protein

Capanzana says two packs of this snack (weighing 20 grams each) would provide 12 percent and 15 percent of the recommended daily allowance of 4- to 6-year-old children for energy and protein, respectively.

From September 2003 to March 2004, schoolchildren were provided with three packs of Nutrimo and a glass of juice drink during school recess.

"We made sure they ate them in school and every two months we conducted evaluations of their height and weight," says Lim.

At the end of the program, the FNRI evaluation showed an increase in both weight and height of the children, Lim says.

Of the 233 schoolchildren involved in the program, 97.8 percent registered an increase in weight and 94.2 percent had an increase in height.

"NutriBreak is indeed a very promising program that can be adopted by other schools in remote and underserved communities," says Lim.

Nutritional survey

According to initial results of the FNRI's Sixth National Nutritional Status Survey Report, among children up to 5 years old, 27.6 percent are underweight while 30.4 percent are short of their ideal height.

A similar situation exists among children aged 6 to 10 years: 26.7 percent are underweight while 36.5 percent are short of their ideal height.

The report also noted that the prevalence of anemia is alarmingly high among children between 6 months and less than 1 year (66 percent) and among the 2-year-olds (53 percent).

The data were collected from July to December 2003 and covered 17 regions of the country, which involved 5,520 households and 25,897 people.

Math in trading

(First of three parts)

TRAVIS Chua [travis_chua@hotmail.com] reflects on math used in trading. Since he raises various issues in a lengthy e-mail, I have decided to interrupt and comment immediately once major points are made:

Your column on human biases last year was very similar to some articles I've read by Dr.Van Tharp (a renowned professional trading coach) and www.turtletrader.com (a site offering trend following and money management courses).

Yes, I wrote about the Nobel economics prize-winning work of psychologists Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman on the psychology of choice. There have been many variations of their classic experiments since then, including the articles by Dr. Van Tharp and the respected site turtletrader.com.

Given your examples of equal expected results regardless of choice, the consequences of the biases are not too clear. Other studies conducted the same experiment on large numbers of people, but with unequal mathematical expectation for each choice.

For example, during Test 1, people are given a choice between a sure gain of $10,000 and a combined scenario of 50-percent chance of getting nothing plus 50-percent chance of gaining $21,000. Note that in the first case, the mathematical expectation is $10,000 (100% x 10,000) while in the second case, the expectation is greater: $10,500 (50% x 0 + 50% x 21,000). Even with the greater expectation, most people chose the sure gain.

During Test 2, people are given a choice between a sure loss of $10,000 and a combined scenario of 50-percent chance of breaking even plus a 50-percent chance of losing $21,000. The mathematical expectation in the sure loss is -$10,000 (100% x -$10,000), while the expectation in the combined scenario is more: -$10,500 (50% x 0 + 50% x -$21,000). Even with the greater loss, most people chose the combined scenario.

The conclusion was that most people are conservative when faced with sure profit, but gamble in the face of sure loss! This behavior runs contrary to what most successful traders advocate: "Run your winners, cut your losers."

Thank you for these results, which reveal human conservatism despite different expectations. As stated previously, these stemmed from Tversky and Kahneman's work. The conclusions remain the same.

Most people try to take profits quickly and average down on stocks, bonds, currencies and commodities that are becoming cheaper. Why? From personal experience and from my observation of many other traders, selling winners to fund losers really is emotionally satisfying. The problem is, especially in trading and investing, what is emotionally satisfying is financially dangerous! (Remember pyramiding scams?)

I agree with you. No one ever said that humans, especially traders, are rational all the time. In fact, Tversky and Kahneman have found that subjects are quite irrational in many cases, and that even when confronted with their irrationality, they often refuse to change their original views. Why? Because emotion is more powerful than reason most times, as you have experienced.

How I wish trading was part of the learning process back when we were studying probabilities, statistics and expectations. It's surprising how, with a little money on the line, math seems more exciting, its implications clearer!

You were born too early. The Ateneo Math Department is now offering courses in financial mathematics which especially utilize advanced probability and statistics in trading, banking and other areas. You are welcome to audit the courses. I am pleased that you have realized the importance of math in the modern business environment. Indeed, math is ubiquitous in practically every field.

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

KIDS' QUIZ

Making cooking easier

FROM THE EGG beater and the electric mixer to the iron stove and microwave oven, preparing meals and snacks has never been easier for us. But what about for those who came way before us? It's high time we learned about the pioneers of the various equipment and utensils that we and our parents use in the kitchen. Check your knowledge of your kitchen appliances and their creators by matching the name of the tool on the left with the name of its inventor on the right.

Dianne M. Villafuerte

Kitchen equipment	Inventor
1. toaster	a) Willis Johnson
2. blender	b) Percy Spencer
3. microwave oven	c) Stephen Poplawski
4. kitchen forks	d) Denis Papin
5. Teflon	e) Rufus M. Eastman
6. egg beater	f) Greeks
7. pressure cooker	g) James Sharp
8. iron stove	h) Marvin Chester Stone
9. electric mixer	i) Charles Strite
10. gas stove	j) Chinese
	k) Roy Plunkett

DID YOU KNOW? The dishwasher was supposedly conceived out of frustration. In 1886, Josephine Cochran complained that no one bothered to devise a dishwashing machine so she did it herself. She introduced the invention at the 1893 World's Fair but only hotels and restaurants took notice of her idea at first.

LAST week's answers: 1-d, 2-k,3-b, 4-f, 5-l, 6-j, 7-e, 8-c, 9-a, 10-h

Send your answers on or before Aug. 26, 2004, 2 p.m. to kidsquiz@inquirer.com.ph with your name, address, telephone number and date of birth.

Last week's winner: KRISNA SAMANTHA ESTEVA

You can claim your prize at the Marketing Department, PDI Building, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yakal and Makiwanig Sts., Makati City and look for Ms. Chris Vida. (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Join and get a chance to win a
Sony Ericsson
T230
mobile phone and a premium gift pack!

The Mediterranean influence: from home design to diet

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

SICILY, Italy—The Mediterranean influence is quite noticeable in the architecture of many houses in posh villages in Metro Manila. If we could also adopt a Mediterranean type of diet, then the prevalence of heart attack, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases would likely decrease.

MEDICAL FILES

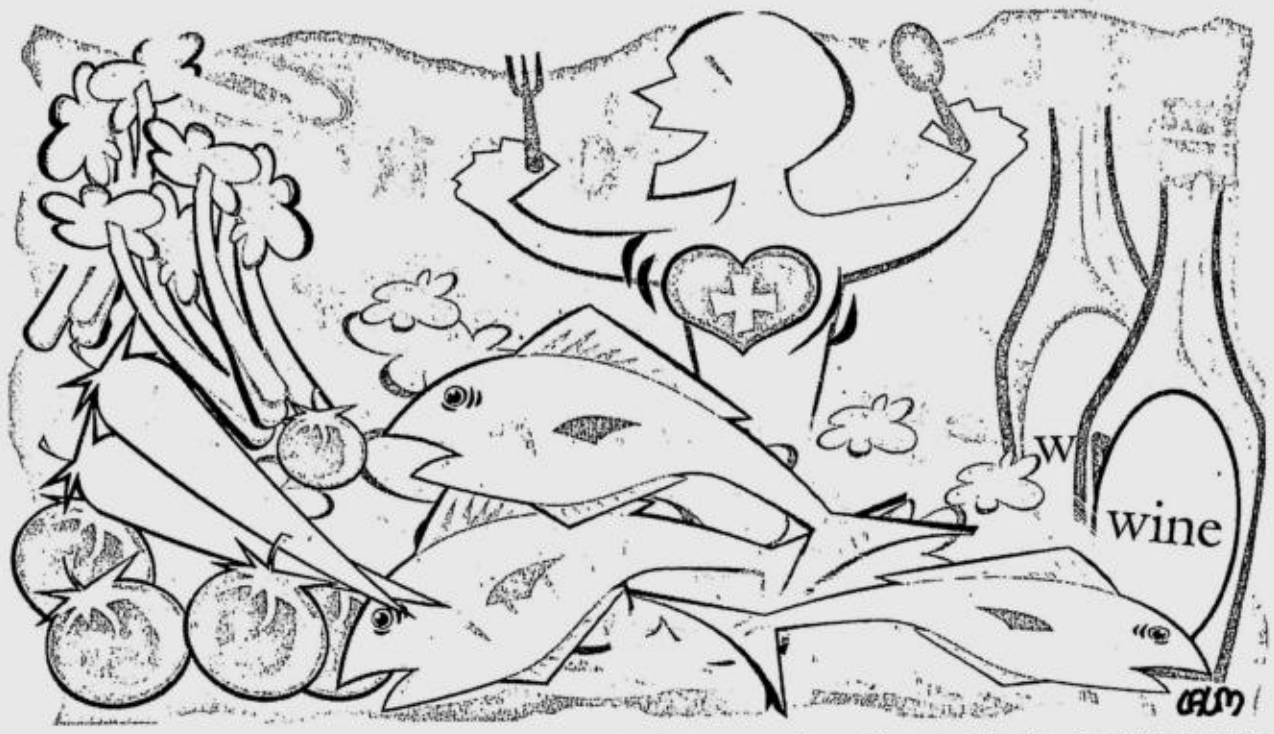
Scientific studies published in reputable international journals have established that a Mediterranean type of diet is associated with a lower incidence of cardiovascular diseases.

On a warm humid day, we visited a small charming village here and got to analyze why the Mediterranean diet was good for the heart and the blood vessels.

Meat is generally downplayed in Mediterranean cuisine, and varieties of fish are served in most meals. When we asked for a typical Mediterranean meal, we were served a tuna dish, which is a staple in many coastal areas. It came with tossed vegetables and pasta prepared with tomato sauce and fried eggplant.

They also have what they call *pasta con le sarde*, which is made with fresh sardines, olive oil, anchovies, raisins and pine nuts.

White or red wine, we were told, also goes with a typical Mediterranean meal. For dessert, we were given what tasted like watermelon with a low-calorie sherbet.



Wine protects heart

The Mediterranean diet contains high fiber—vegetables, fruits, grains and nuts. Residents in this part of the world eat a lot of fish which provides them with healthy polyunsaturated fatty acids.

Wine, taken in moderation, can have a heart-protective effect, and this has been borne out in some studies. In fact, even among the French and other non-Mediterranean people who eat a high-fat diet and are smokers, wine may have a compensating effect which accounts for the relatively lower incidence of cardiovascular complications. This is the so-called French paradox.

What is it in wine that confers beneficial effects? No one can tell for sure, but wines, particularly red wine, may have an antioxidant effect. Grape skin, particularly of the red variety, contains potent nutrients which are believed to be oxygen free-radical scavengers.

Oxygen free-radicals are wild molecules that can cause havoc in the body and destroy a lot of tissues. Antioxidants keep them at bay.

The process of atherosclerosis, which is the progressive narrowing of the blood vessels, is believed to be an offshoot of oxidative stress on the inner lining and other layers of the blood vessels induced by free-radicals. Some type of inflammation or swelling develops in the inner lining of the blood vessels called endothelium. Hence, antioxidants may help neutralize this process and retard atherosclerosis.

Effect on blood vessels

Since the antioxidant nutrients come from the grape peel, does it have to be fermented wine or will any ordinary nonfermented grape juice do?

This is a good question which published studies have not addressed, but my gut feel is that even nonfermented grape juices also have a significant antioxidant effect.

Alcoholic beverages such as wine may have an additional relaxant effect on the blood vessels. But again, they must be taken in moderation.

Excessive intake of alcohol for a prolonged period weakens the heart, makes it dilate, and causes it to fail eventually. This is due to alcoholic cardiomyopathy, which involves some changes in the heart muscles, making it less efficient in pumping blood to maintain circulation.

Vegetables and fruits, particularly tomatoes, in the Mediterranean diet may also provide additional antioxidants. These antioxidants can help prevent the proliferation of cancer cells. Thus, those with strong family histories of cancer may benefit from a Mediterranean type of diet.

Deep-sea fish better

How about the fish in the Mediterranean diet? Deep-sea fish (not freshwater fish) is rich in omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids which have been shown to prevent a recurrence of heart attacks and strokes in those with heart problems. It can also prevent sudden death by as much as 45 percent due to its action of preventing fatal irregularity in the heartbeat, called arrhythmias.

Even just two to three servings of fish per week can help; but it's better if one can have it daily.

For those who can't eat fish regularly, taking fish oil supplements may help. The American Heart Association has made this recommendation.

So, let's make the Mediterranean influence go beyond the architecture of our homes, and into our kitchen and dining rooms. We can all drink to that.

Conserve, treat, reuse water, says WEAP

CLEAN water is a scarce commodity, a vital and finite resource, which should be treated, conserved and reused, according to the Water Environment Association of the Philippines Inc.

Thus, it said, ensuring an efficient, economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible wastewater treatment alternatives will enable people to sustain their water resources in achieving clean, safe water for both humans and wildlife.

Seminar

Committed to preserve a clean water environment, WEAP, a member-association of the Water Environment Federation, will conduct a one-day technical seminar on "Wastewater Treatment Technologies and the Salient Features of the Clean Water Act on Aug. 27, at the Manila Pavilion Hotel, (formerly Holiday Inn), United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila.

Dr. Pag-asa Gaspillo, WEAP president, said the seminar will provide the participants with technical information on the current practices of wastewater treatment operations, trouble-shooting, wastewater processes (ion-exchange and water/wastewater clarification), and safety policies and procedures in managing and operating a wastewater facility.

Speakers

Invited speakers from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will talk on the salient features of the Clean Water Act (Republic Act 9275) and sampling collection techniques and methods and laboratory analysis of important wastewater parameters.

For details contact Jing at 371-9790 or 410-1119.

Course for family doctors set

THE PHILIPINE Academy of Family Physicians invites all PAFP members to the 43rd Postgraduate Course Module 2 on Aug. 29, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Topics to be presented are: DOH-Approved Alternative Medical Practices; Medico-Legal Suits; When and When Not to Resuscitate: A Bioethical Dilemma, PhilHealth Accredication of DOTS Clinics, and a panel discussion on medical benefits (SSS, PhilHealth and ECC).

Invited Speakers are Doctors Jessica Cueto de Leon, Antonio Rebosa, Angeles Tan-Alonra, Madeleine R. Valera and Lea Garcia.

Registered PAFP members will be awarded to PAFP-CME 10 credit hours Category I for full attendance.

Dr. Reynaldo Olazo is the president and Dr. Imelda Maribeth Garcia is the executive secretary of PAFP. Dr. Policarpio Joves Jr. is the chair of the committee on continuing medical education.

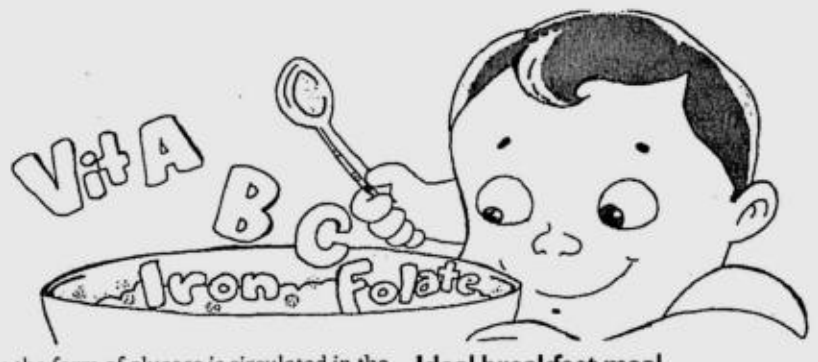
For details call Vicky Merina at 844-2135, 844,3436.

What wheat, corn in cereals can do for your child's health

"BIG things come in small packages." And this is true when we consider what a bowl of breakfast cereals can do to your child's health. A daily intake gives him optimum nutrition as each spoonful contains a variety of nutrients, vitamins and minerals necessary for his growth and total well-being. In addition to this, breakfast cereals also impact on how he performs in school.

A Harvard University/Massachusetts General Hospital study concluded that children who had a nutritious breakfast of cereals every day improved their math grades. Likewise, they showed better improvement in their scholastic tests. That's great news for parents and children.

A pack of cereals is primarily composed of wheat and corn. These two ingredients in their natural states contain their individual nutritional advantages which the human body can benefit from.



Food Pyramid

Nutrition experts refer to the Food Pyramid as the indicator of which food from the different food groups people must eat every day. The base of the pyramid contains foods young and old people must have more servings of. These include cereals, bread, rice or pasta. One major ingredient of cereals is wheat. Wheat is rich in carbohydrates that are essential in waking up your child's metabolism in the morning, thus giving him the energy he needs for the day ahead.

Carbohydrates are referred to as the body's favorite fuel. They help your child "recharge" and gain that momentum to undertake the day's different activities. After carbohydrates are digested, energy in the form of glucose is circulated in the blood. Without carbohydrates, your child may have to deal with sluggish behavior while in school.

The wheat in breakfast cereals contains folate (more popularly known as vitamin B complex). Folate is essential as it helps your child's body form DNA/RNA and red blood cells. Nutrition studies reveal that about 23 to 33 percent of folate consumed by children are found in wheat of breakfast cereals. Thus, a daily intake is necessary.

Benefits of corn

The second major ingredient found in breakfast cereals is corn. By itself, corn is a versatile vegetable. Grilled, steamed, boiled or ground, it provides the body with an immense amount of nutritional benefits.

Like wheat, corn is also high in folic acid. It contains fair amounts of thiamin, vitamin C, magnesium, niacin and potassium. It is also a good source of fiber which helps greatly in digestion. An added benefit of corn is that it contains selenium, an antioxidant believed to protect the human cells.

Ideal breakfast meal

Breakfast cereals like Koko Krunch and Honey Stars have become a major source of health-giving food because aside from these two main ingredients, they are also fortified with other vitamins and minerals. In fact, breakfast cereals are found to be top contributors to overall intakes of fiber, vitamin A, vitamin C, iron and folacin.

Notable also is the fact that they are low in fat which all the more make them mom's ideal partners for daily nutrition. Having these vitamins and minerals in each pack of cereal makes it the right choice for your child's complete nutrition.

Breakfast cereals are easy to prepare. Mothers, homemakers and even children themselves can simply add a generous serving in a bowl with milk (also a rich source of calcium). That's a daily serving of true breakfast goodness to the max. So make a bowl of breakfast cereals your child's daily habit and make him gain loads of nutritional goodness he truly deserves while enjoying each tasty bite.

Your search for staying young painlessly may end here

DECADES after she pioneered facial maintenance and established one of the very first dermatology clinics in the Philippines in 1959, Dr. Angelita Trinidad Reyes has introduced yet another first in the country—the Polaris, a safer and more comfortable way to reduce facial wrinkles and neck folds.

The Polaris is an ultramodern machine acquired by the ATReyes-M-Tech Center for Dermatology and Laser Surgery Clinic.

"With the utilization of tried and tested technology combining light, radio frequency and cooling, the Polaris zeroes in on wrinkles gently and quickly stretches and lifts the skin, doing its job without damaging the surrounding tissues or skin," explained Dr. Reyes, chair of M-Tech Medical Hospital.

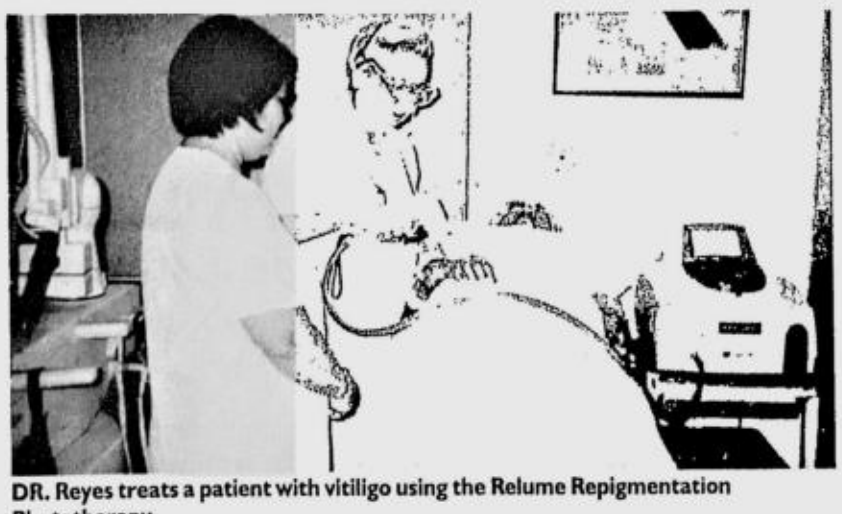
Modern trends

A graduate of the University of the Philippines, Dr. Reyes pursued further studies at the University of Pennsylvania before putting up her clinic. She has continually updated applicable technology and her own professional skills to keep abreast of modern trends.

ATReyes-M-Tech was also the first and only center to offer Relume Repigmentation Phototherapy which it introduced in December 2003. Relume Phototherapy is ideal for treating vitiligo, leukoderma, mature stretch marks and hypopigmented skin conditions such as scars from acne, burns, postsurgical scars and laser-resurfaced skin.

M-TECH Medical Hospital chair and top dermatologist Dr. Angelita Trinidad Reyes assists her associate Dr. Carmencita Salud in removing deep and superficial varicosities using the Vasculite Elite Laser.

DR. Reyes administers the Polaris to a patient. Polaris is a nonsurgical machine to get rid of wrinkles.



DR. Reyes treats a patient with vitiligo using the Relume Repigmentation Phototherapy.

15 laser machines

A one-stop shop, the center has a total of 15 laser machines to address every skin problem and disease. These include the Vasculight Elite System, Carbon Dioxide Silktouch Laser, Carbon Dioxide Feather-touch Laser, Light Sheer Diode Laser for permanent hair reduction, Quantum Skin Rejuvenation of the Intense Pulse Light System and Versapulse Laser for tattoos, cherry angiomata and pigmentation, and the Vibradermabrasion, the latest Micro-Dermabrasion device.

"Each laser has a definite function. You cannot use one laser for everything," Dr. Reyes explained.

The center also offers treatments for acne control, stretch marks, keloid regression, mole removal and allergy detection using electronic scanning, among other services. "We apply all kinds of treatment in just one stop," Dr. Reyes said.

In 2001, the ATReyes Center for Dermatology and Laser Surgery Clinic merged with the M-Tech Medical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Center. Comprising of world-class equipment, competent doctors and highly personalized services, the team has gained a growing number of patrons, including a good number from the diplomatic community.

"We strive to raise the bar and elevate the standards of healthcare delivery in the country," Dr. Reyes said.

ATReyes-M-Tech Center for Dermatology and Laser Surgery is located at Suite 1001-1002, Medical Plaza Building, corner Amorsolo and De La Rosa Streets in Makati. For inquiries, e-mail atr_center@mtech.com.ph.

Banks' bad loan ratio rose to 13.77% in June

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BAD loans of Philippine commercial banks inched up as ratio of total loans to 13.77 percent as of end-June from 13.53 percent in the previous month, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The uptick in the non-performing loan ratio was due to the 13.1 percent or P34-billion reduction in inter-bank loans, which outpaced the 0.1 percent or P100 million decline in NPLs, BSP documents showed.

The bad loan ratio for the month of June, however, still represented an improvement from the 15.22 percent during the same period last year.

Net of inter-bank loans, the NPL ratio improved by 0.12 percentage point to 16.41 percent from 16.53 percent last month. The ratio was likewise much lower than the 18.01 percent a year ago.

There was a 0.7 percent or P10.72-billion expansion in total loan portfolio net of inter-bank loans.

Meanwhile, the sector's gross holdings of real and other properties owned and acquired rose to P207.51 billion from end-May.

Restructured loans also went up by 2.1 percent to P138.55 billion as against the 1.8-percent decline in total loan portfolio to P1.78 trillion.

Overall, the industry's non-performing assets rose to 12.29 percent as a ratio of total assets from 12.24 percent in May.

Meanwhile, the ratio of NPLs covered by loan-loss provisioning was up to 53.46 percent in June from 53.39 percent the previous month while the NPA coverage ratio dropped to 32.56 percent from 32.63 percent.

The BSP said it expected the sector's NPL ratio to improve significantly as banks scramble to dispose of their assets to meet the deadline to avail themselves of the perks offered by the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle Law.

The SPV Law, which took effect in April 2002, intends to help banks get rid of their non-performing assets by waiving some of the taxes and reducing fees usually collected in the sale or transfer of assets. The law waived the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and e-VAT (expanded value added tax) and likewise reduced the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent.

The tax reliefs and other benefits are available only up to April 8, 2005.

Several banks have lined up the sale of a big portion of their NPLs through the SPV law, among them the state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines.

The bank is set to fast-track the auction of P17-P19 billion worth of non-performing assets using the SPV framework, and it is expected to be the largest sale of bad assets in the Philippines.

The transaction portfolio offered by the bank would consist of about 100 accounts, which are a combination of large corporate non-performing loans and foreclosed assets. The transaction structure will consist of an outright purchase of a 95-percent interest in the NPA pools by the winning bidders. Landbank will retain a 5-percent stake.

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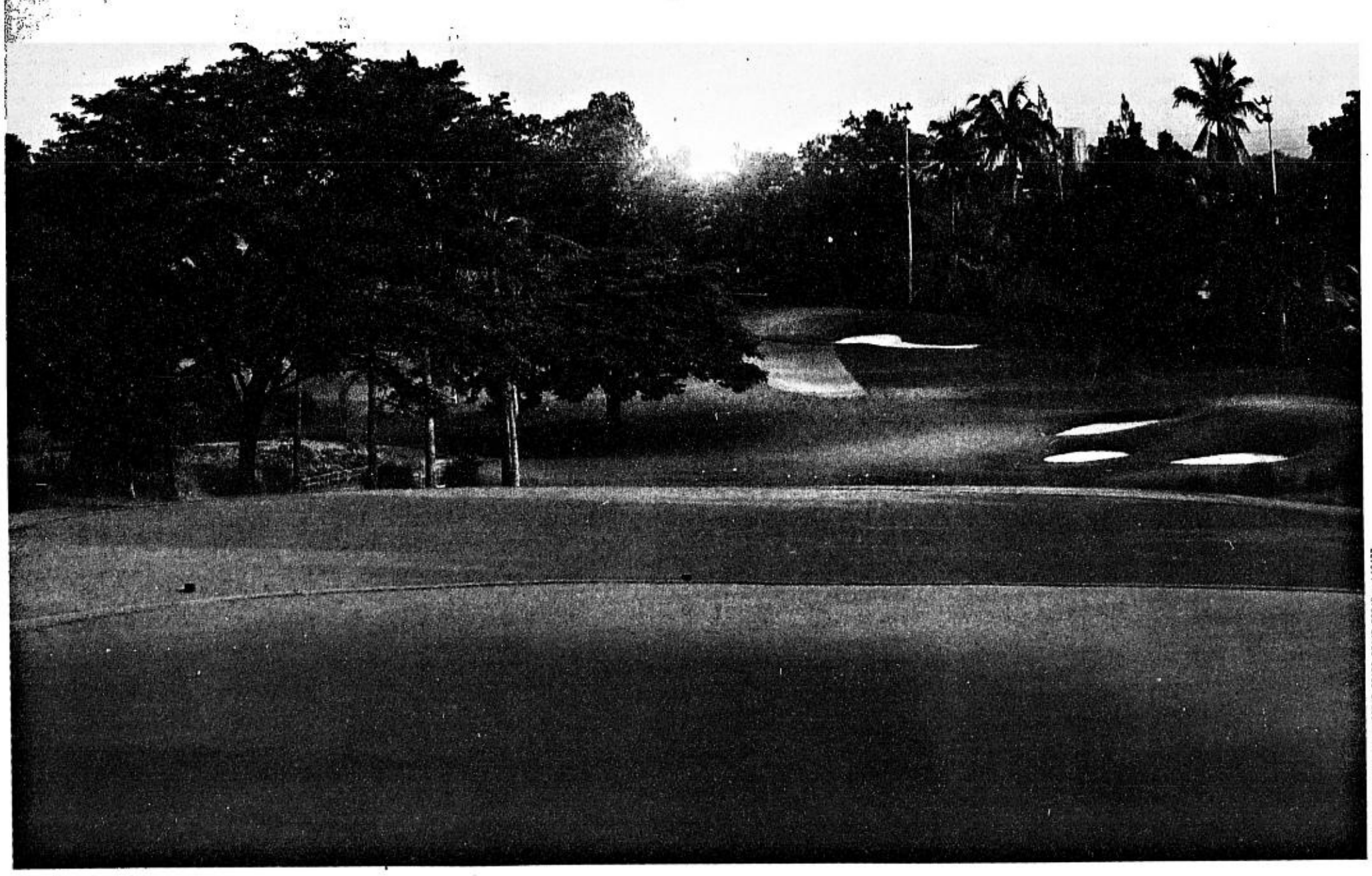

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SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre
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NOW SHOWING

Bea and John Lloyd score a big hit

By Rito P. Asilo

CRUZ AND ALONZO. Play flawed protagonists.

"Now That I Have You"

D: Laurenti Dyogi
S: John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo

DYOGI scores a critical and commercial hit in his latest romantic-comedy caper. Using the MRT train as backdrop to the romantic tale written by Jose Javier Reyes, he weaves together the lives of his protagonists, loquacious, hopeless romantic Betsy, a call center trainee, and straight-as-an-arrow accountant, Michael, as they discover the convoluted complexities of young love.

Putting his technical savvy to good use, he demonstrates his enviable instinct to make tricky *kilig* moments work by not taking himself—or his subject—as seriously as he did in "All My Life." This time, his tongue is firmly in his cheek!

His amusing references to pop culture and movie favorites ("Pretty Woman," "Titanic") may not be original, but they are useful to introduce details and render endearing touches to scenes that establish how the couple's relationship develops and progresses.

The movie is not without flaws: It slows down when the lovers start to quarrel. Even the use of the omnipresent narrator is something that we've seen in David Kane's British romantic comedy, "Born Romantic" (2000). But, that's nitpicking.

The audience easily relates to the film's protagonists because they are depicted as flawed, fallible individuals who make mistakes. When Michael is caught in a situation where he has to defend Betsy from baddies, he doesn't wipe them out with one swig and a swagger, as most movie heroes do—he faints!

Cruz is a believable romantic lead, but it's Alonzo who delivers a charming, winning performance befitting a future movie queen.

Good performances from the entire cast, particularly Nikki Valdez, Rio Locsin, and Dyogi's "SCQ" wards, Nerizza Naig and Roxanne Guinoo, and—thank goodness!—there are no overacting extras around this time!

The movie serves as a sweet reminder that, in life and love, there are no real guarantees. But, when a person hides behind a duffel bag with you when you watch horror movies, you may have finally found the right one!

"Jan Dara"

D: Nonzee Nimibutr
S: Eakarat Sarsukh

Film buffs, take note! Don't miss Thai cinema master Nonzee Nimibutr's sexually provocative, dramatic epic (at Robinsons cinemas), based on a controversial 1966 novel, which follows the story of a boy who grows up hated by his father after his mother dies giving birth to him.

The movie, which boasts of a beautiful cast, is replete with melodramatic sap—its narrative style and situational structure are so *Pinoy* that it could pass for a local film if dubbed in Tagalog.

In any case, the director's visual flair, the actors' moving performances, and the film's gorgeous photography and sizzling, psychosexual atmosphere imbue this production with undeniable power.

"The Stepford Wives"

D: Frank Oz
S: Nicole Kidman

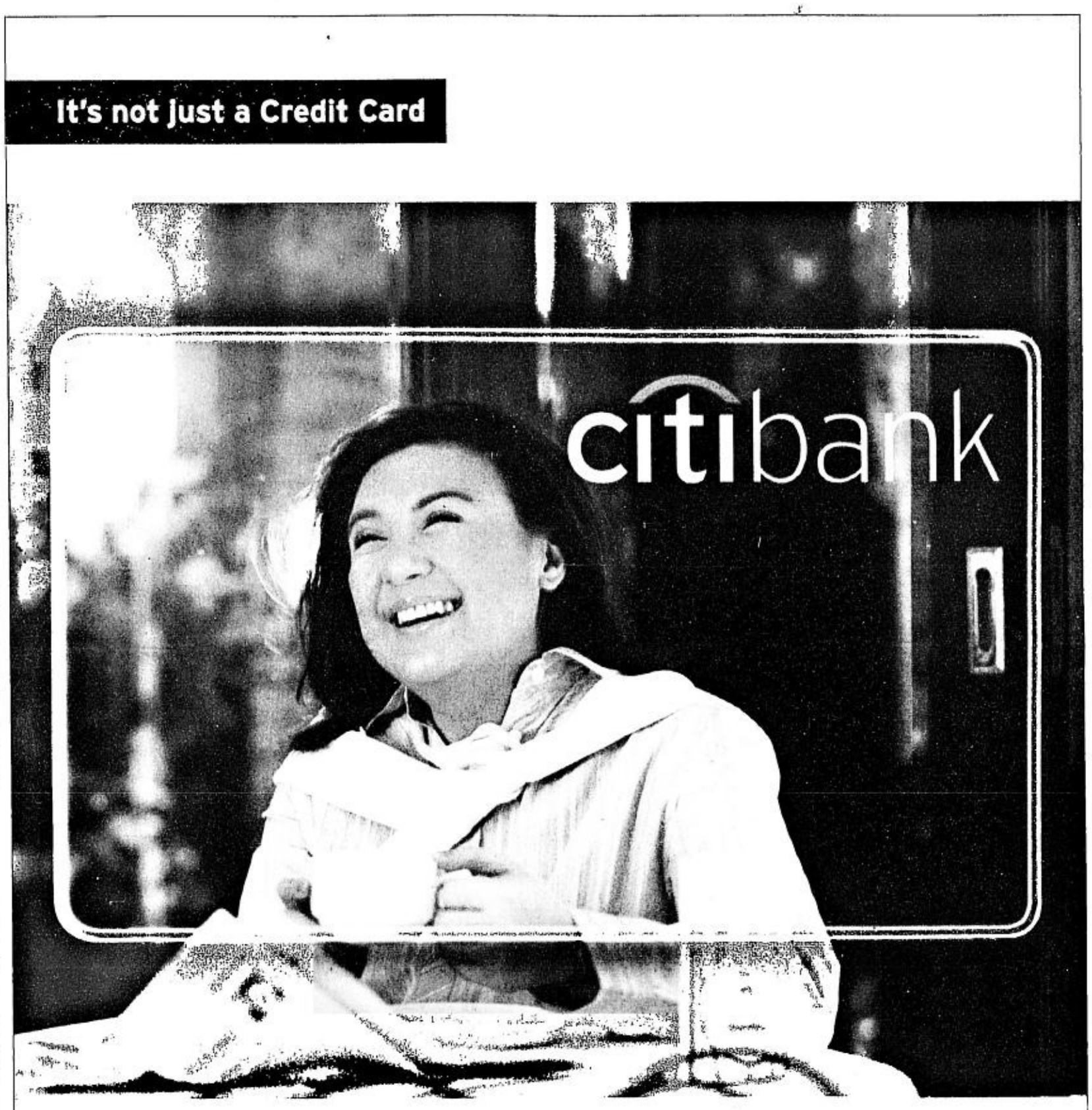
Concerned husband, Walter (Matthew Broderick), hauls off his family to suburban Stepford, Connecticut to start a new life after his more successful wife, Joanna (Kidman), a powerful TV executive, suffers a nervous breakdown. Determined to put her life back together and keep her family intact, Joanna gives this "more domesticated" phase a shot while she recuperates.

Then, she notices how strangely peaceful, efficient, blissful and subservient the Stepford housewives are to their husbands—even the "other half" of a gay couple! Stepford is every misogynist's dream come true—and a feminist's nightmare!

Frank Oz' remake of the 1975 movie, based on Ira Levin's novel, is a timely, sugar-coated social satire. But, somehow, this adaptation doesn't have the zing and the bite that you'd expect from a film that boasts of substantial names (Kidman, Broderick, Glenn Close, Bette Midler, Faith Hill).

But, this is a common predicament of remakes of classic thrillers (with the exception of Martin Scorsese's "Cape Fear")—the element of surprise needed to engage and jolt you out of your seat is no longer there, because you already know how it ends.

Instead of getting unnerved by the sight of housewives ejecting money from their mouths like ATM machines, you wish you also had the "obedience chip" implanted in your brain to augment your financial resources!



Sheryn's lucky number is 2

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN Sheryn Regis recently won second place in the prestigious international songfest, Voice of Asia, we thought to ourselves that No. 2 is turning out to be a very lucky number for the petite but powerful-voiced Visayan songstress!

Everybody knows, of course, that Sheryn won "only" second place in last year's "Star in a Million" singing tilt on Channel 2. But, instead of going home to Cebu to lick her psychic bruises, she bounced back with a vengeance, and slowly but surely clawed her way to the top.

REGIS. Total performer.

New album

With a new album out and numerous shows both here and abroad, Sheryn is clearly stardom-bound.

Additional proof of this is provided by her frequent guest stints on various TV shows, not just those with musical or variety formats.

For instance, we recently saw Sheryn guesting on a reality show that required her to go incognito and convince people in a sing-along joint that she was a tomboy who couldn't carry a note.

Since Sheryn is one of the best singers around, that

SHERYN'S/ C3

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MASARAP NA PUGAD / TUKAAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR/STEPFORD WIVES/CINDERELLA STORY/THE VILLAGE
PREMIERE THEATRE	STEPFORD WIVES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GARFIELD
CINEMA-2	INDECENT BEHAVIOR (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-3	CINDERELLA STORY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-6	I ROBOT
CINEMA-7	CATWOMAN
CINEMA-8	KARELASYON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STEFORD WIVES
CINEMA-12	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-14	THE VILLAGE
CINEMA-15	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	ELLA ENCHANTED
CINEMA-2	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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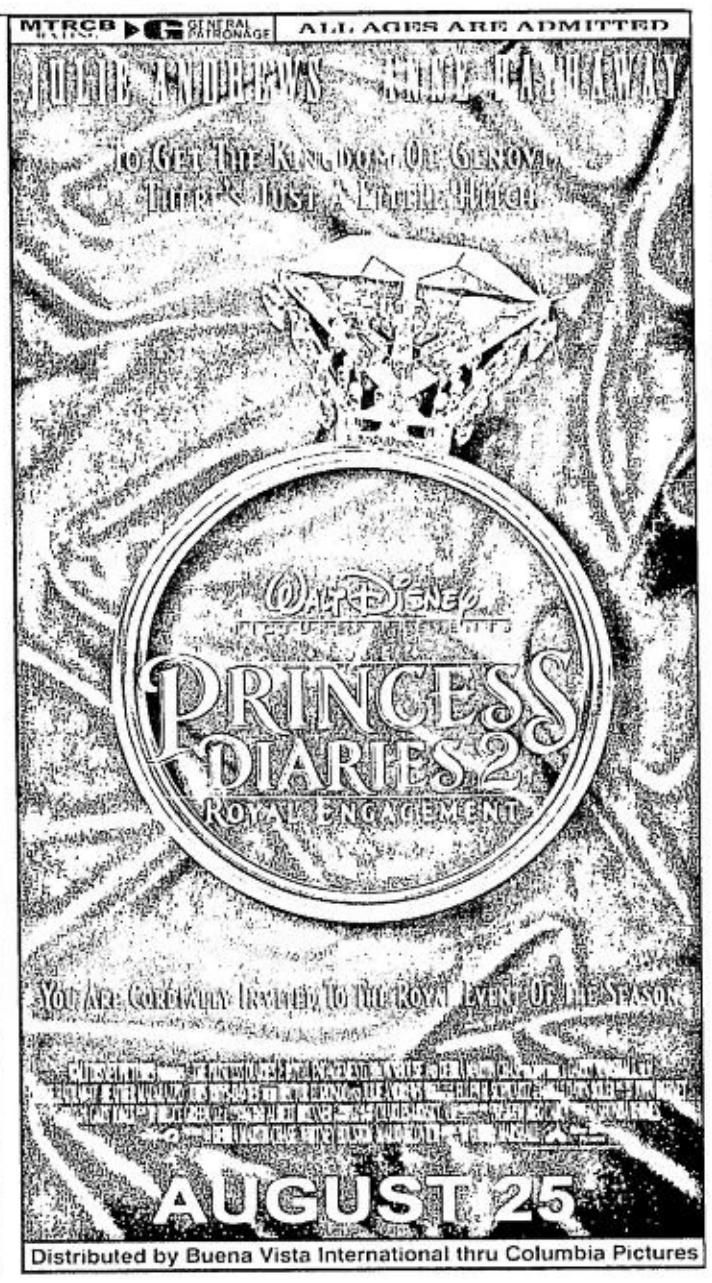

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star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA - SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
- Bangkok Haunted 2
- Alien vs Predator
- Now That I Have You

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
- Reserve
- Karelasyon
- Bangkok Haunted 2
- Now That I Have You
- Alien vs Predator
- Collateral

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- Alien vs Predator
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THE VILLAGE PG13 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00	GARFIELD THE MOVIE GP 12:00,1:45,3:30, 5:20,7:10,9:00	STEPFORD WIVES PG13 11:15,1:25,3:35, 5:45,7:55,10:20

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1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 11:35, 2:10, 4:45 7:20, 9:55 PG-13
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20 PG-13
3 STEPFORD WIVES 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 10:00 PG-13
4 THE VILLAGE 11:10, 1:30, 3:50 6:10, 8:30, 10:50 PG-13

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3 A CINDERELLA STORY FS 11:30 am 1:30 pm 3:30 pm 5:30 pm 7:30 pm, LMF 9:30 pm (GP)
2 THE STEPFORD WIVES FS 11:25 am 1:40 pm 3:55 pm, 8:10 pm 8:25 pm, LMF 10:40 pm (PG-13)
4 THE VILLAGE FS 1:00 pm 3:35 pm 6:10 pm, LMF 8:45 pm (PG-13)
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Sheryn's lucky number is 2

From page C2

second requirement was a decidedly tall order. But, the pint-sized entertainer was game, and gave the tough assignment her best effort.

It was fascinating to see how the show's expert make-up artists transformed Sheryn into a dark-skinned, pimply tomboy. The disguise fooled the audience, and the joint's bitchy sing-along masters, who went to town insulting the "tomboy's" appearance.

Sweet vengeance

When she started to sing really badly, their insults reached unparalleled depths and vituperation. It was sweet vengeance, therefore, when Sheryn was finally allowed to blow her cover, and sang in the beautiful and powerful way that so many listeners have come to love.

The bitchy sing-along masters were shamed, and rudely put in their proper places, as they deserved to be.

Surprise

Sheryn's right-on handling of her tough "non-singing tomboy" assignment was a pleasant surprise to us, and hopefully to producers who will now think of Sheryn not just as a singer, but also as an actress and total performer as well.

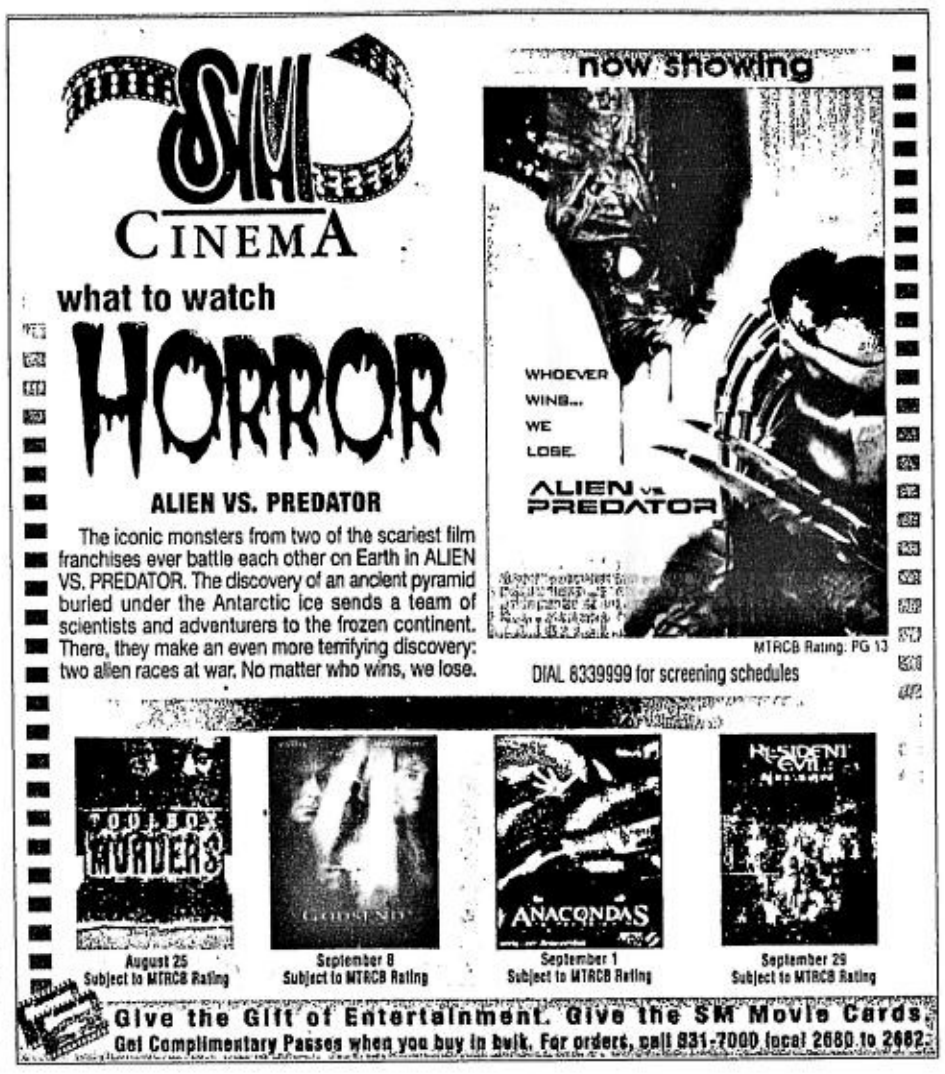
Should Sheryn launch an alternative career as an actress, that will help affirm our recently stated view that she could emerge as this generation's version of Nora Aunor (*if* properly handled, of course).

Well, that's for the future to decide. For now, however. Sheryn is already having such a great time that this second-best need not feel inferior to anybody in the entertainment field—and that No. 2 can be a very lucky number, indeed!

Jackie's son hopes to carve separate identity

HONG KONG—Following in the footsteps of his father, but hoping to be known independently, Jackie Chan's son has launched his acting career with a feature film—and a new name!

Jaycee, 22, who looks like his father, has dropped Chan as his surname and adopted Fong, an old family name that his grandfather had changed to the more common Chan, the South China Morning Post reported. *AP*



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ALI MALL CINEPLEX
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
11:00 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 pm
4 ALIEN vs PREDATOR
12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
5 THE VILLAGE
12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
7 STEPFORD WIVES
11:00 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 pm

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Promo Duration: Aug. 21 to 29, 2004
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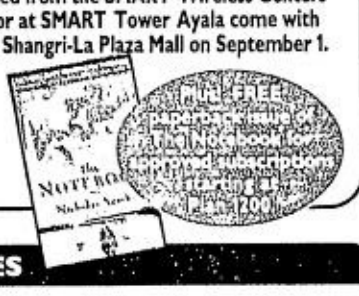


MMS

NBW1 NBW3 NBW4 NBW5 NBW7 NBW8

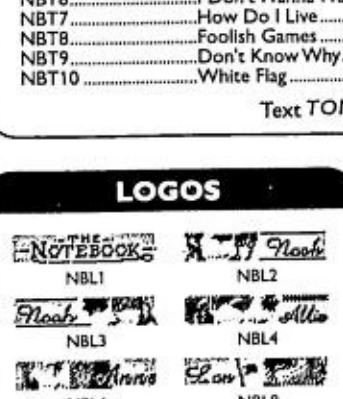
Text *MMS* <keyword> to 209.

TONES

KEYWORD	TITLE	ARTIST
NBT1	I Could Not Ask For More	Edwin McCain
NBT2	There You'll Be	Faith Hill
NBT3	The First Cut Is The Deepest	Sheryl Crow
NBT4	When We Dance	Sting
NBT5	Sweet Surrender	Sarah Mclachlan
NBT6	I Don't Wanna Wait	Paula Cole
NBT7	How Do I Live	Trisha Yearwood
NBT8	Foolish Games	Jewel
NBT9	Don't Know Why	Norah Jones
NBT10	White Flag	Dido

Text *TONE* or *POLY* <keyword> to 209.

LOGOS



NBL1 NBL2 NBL3 NBL4 NBL6 NBL8

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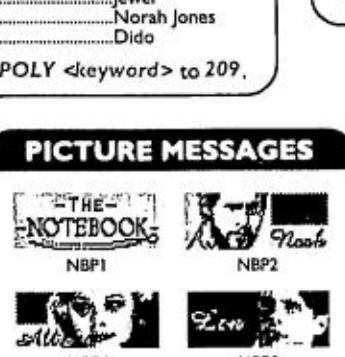
PICTURE MESSAGES



NBP1 NBP2 NBP4 NBP8

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THEMES

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2. Go to Amazing Stuff.
3. Go to Handset Themes.
4. Go to Movie, then click on THE NOTEBOOK.
5. Select corresponding phone model. (i.e. N6600, N7610, P900, Z600, T630, T610)
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SANTOS. Great rapport with audience.

SATURDAY *Special*

Jon and Debraliz, way back when

VALASOTE. Tiny dynamo.

By Behn Cervantes

DURING a summer drama workshop at UP, among talented tyros like Rene Requiestas, one of those who stood out in my class was Jon Santos. He was focused, eager to work, and was particularly good at mimicking Tessie Tomas, who was popular at the time because of her *Bisaya* weather girl character. Jon was very funny, but I thought it would be more wonderful if he created his own characters.

He joined UP Rep, and busied himself with acting, scripting, and the organizational aspects of the acting troupe. He got along well with the other members. At the drop of a hat, he would perform a comedy skit. He enjoyed performing, and had great rapport with the audience.

Plus factor

During riotous cast parties, he would script pointed digs at the cast, crew—and me. Because this ribbing was done with style and in good humor, the darts drew little blood. Basically a good guy, he had that plus factor going for him. In due time, he was already visible on television.

These days, his takes on Tessie Tomas, Vilma Santos, Armida Siquion Reyna and Miriam Defensor Santiago are distinguished by their serious inferences.

In the '70s, young talents auditioned for "Batibot," a feel-good musical by Joey Papa and Reuben Federizon, which I directed. Hajji Alejandro played the title role, with Bibeth Orteza, Gary Flores and Naty Crame Rogers also in the cast. Since it was a major production of the Metropolitan Theater, a fine chorus and supporting cast were needed.

I cast a tiny *mestiza* as Hajji's mischievous kid sister. However, early on in rehearsals, I noted that she could really belt out a song—and her body language was something else!

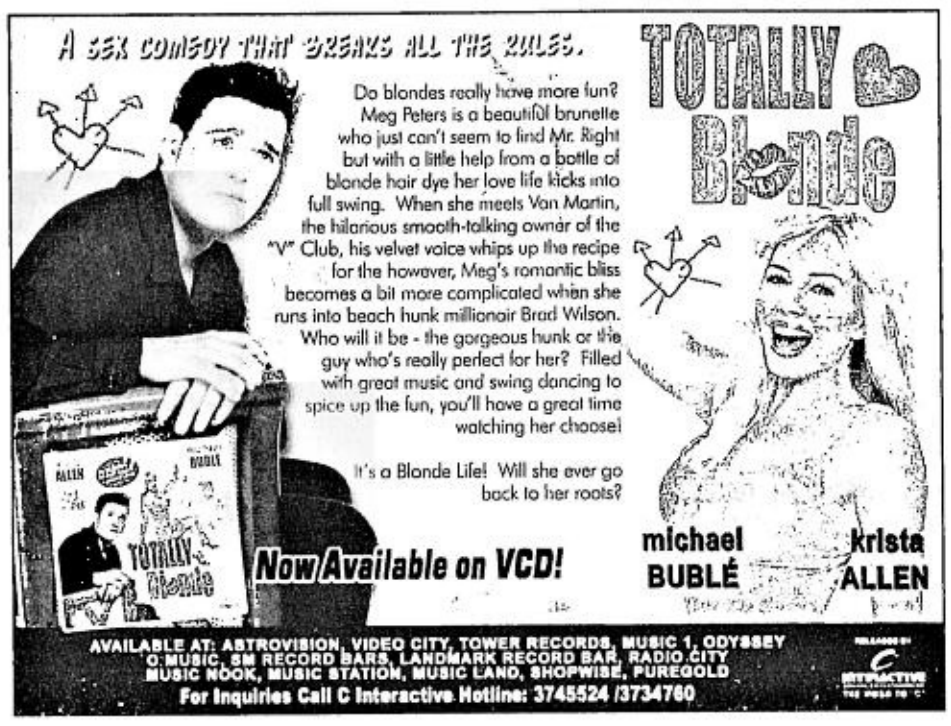
She was a fantastic musical-comedy talent, so I quietly requested the composer to create a solo number for the tiny dynamo. Sure enough, Debraliz Valasote delivered as I expected.

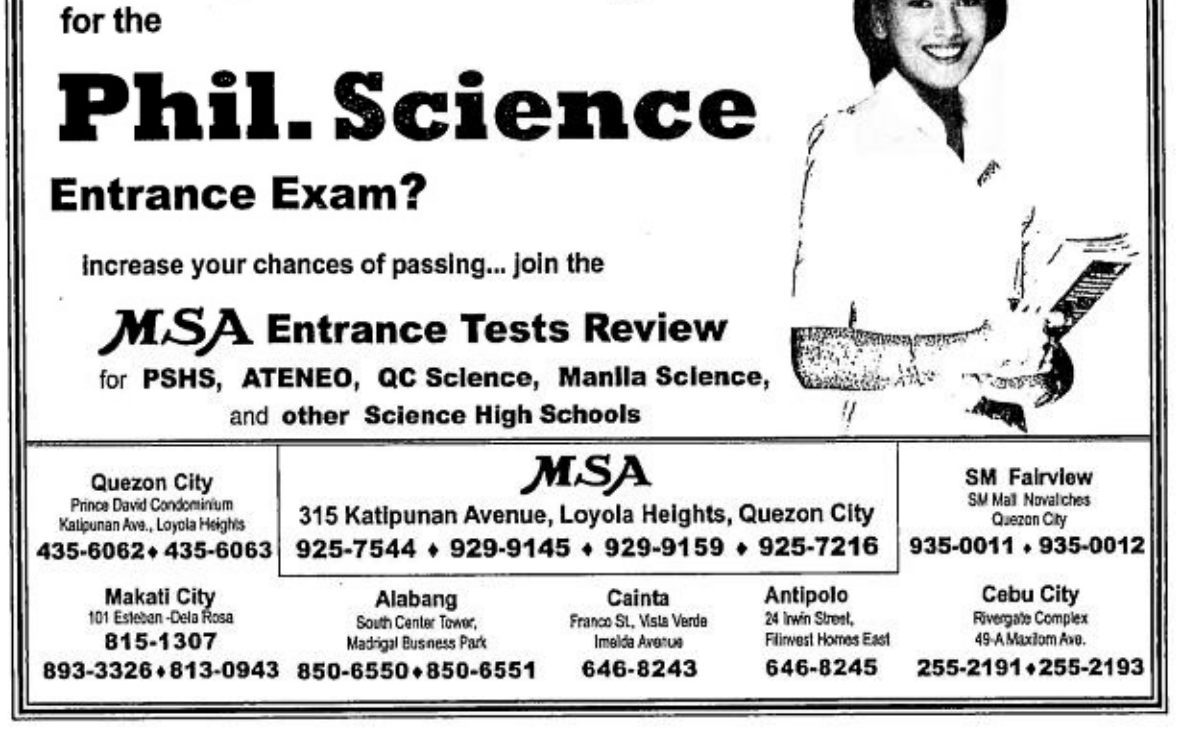
Show

After the show, everyone wanted to know who she was, and where she came from. I could only say, "From heaven?"

Without a doubt, Debraliz is a great talent. Television shows and the movies frequently hired her for comic scenes. For a spell, she was a regular on a daily noontime show.

But, she was forced to resort to what was predictable and safe, and failed to tap her awesome potential. What a waste of talent, I complained, because I will forever be a fan of the Debraliz I worked with in 1978!





Be one of the first 200 GirlTxters to get free tickets to the Red Carpet Premiere of Princess Diaries 2 on August 21, 2004 at SM Megamall Cinema 1. Gates open at 5:00 PM. Text TICKETS to 3993.

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2. Dress Up like Princess Mia of Princess Diaries 2.
3. Proceed to SM Megamall Cinema 1 lobby.
4. Best-Dressed princess will be selected from among 10 finalists. Winner will receive P10,000 cash and P10,000 worth of Gift Certificates
5. Consolation prizes will be selected to all contestants.

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"MAGNIFICAT." Longest-running religious musical.

Cayabyab's 'Magnificat' marks 160th performance

By Rito P. Asilo

FOR the cast of Ryan Cayabyab's "Magnificat," performing in the popular religious musical, about the life of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is always a special experience.

But, today's performances (at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.) at the Albay Astrodome in Legazpi City are doubly special: The longest-running religious musical in the country is staging its 160th performance.

Setting records

But, for us members of the cast, the whole thing is more than just a matter of setting records. With great fondness, we look back to its humble beginnings.

In 1995, a co-actor in the original cast of "Alikabok," our very first theater production, dragged us to the audition of this musical at the residence of movie couple, Johnny Delgado and Laurice Guillen.

Not long after, we were told that we had made the cut. However, we found out that "Magnificat" didn't have a producer nor a playdate—and the music of Act Two wasn't even finished yet!

But, we were impressed with the people involved. More than anything, what we found interesting was the passion and excitement that characterized those early readings and blocking sessions—we knew we were doing something special.

We didn't even notice that we were already rehearsing the musical for five months—even without publicity or prospect for a show! —Until we performed for a private audience in Pinky Marquez' home, and suddenly, the tides began to change . . .

Word of mouth

With great faith in the powerful libretto and direction of NUT and the moving, soaring music of Mr. C (Cayabyab), our small group (which included Pinky and Dulce, alternating as Maria) started to get invitations from people all over the country who had heard great things about our musical through word of mouth. Then, the rave reviews started to pour in.

To date, "Magnificat" has been performed in hospitals, schools, churches—even inside the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa!

We staged it before a mammoth El Shaddai crowd, for charismatic groups, and for Jaime Cardinal Sin at Villa San Miguel.

We performed at every venue imaginable: the Araneta Coliseum, Cuneta Astrodome, Meralco Theater, the Manila Cathedral, at the Greenhills, PhilAm Life, SM, AFP and UP theaters, at the Inquirer.

Around the country

We toured it around the country, from Isabela and Baguio in the north, to Davao and Cagayan de Oro in the south. We didn't stop performing even when the minus-one conked out, or when it rained on roofless venues.

We love the show so much that we only missed four performances—once, because we couldn't wade through the huge El Shaddai crowd in time for our musical's performance!

Performing the translated version (by Palanca winner Ametta Taguchi) of the play in Cebuano, commissioned by Margie Moran Floirendo, was one of our fondest memories of "Magnificat."

We were flown to Davao to open the show, with fellow Manila cast members, Tex Ordonez (as Maria) and Andy Bais (as Zaccharias). (The rest of the cast were homegrown Davao talents.)

Andy and I speak the dialect because I grew up in Davao and Andy in Dumaguete. But, our dear Tex didn't speak a single word of Cebuano!

For Tex, learning the nuances of the Visayan dialect *and* performing her demanding role were no mean feat!

The current cast includes Pinky Marquez, Jingle Buena, Andy Bais, Shiela Asuncion, Paul Marica, Albert Jimenez, Russel Magno, Nadja Matining and Rey Manalo.

Special

Indeed, there are so many things that make "Magnificat" special for us: Lasting connections with the people whose lives have been touched by the musical's neo-evangelizing power, the special friendships we forged with past and present cast members, and the strengthening of our understanding of love, faith and divine sacrifice.

The Bicol performances are sponsored by the San Gregorio Magno Cathedral parish. Call (052) 820-4603 or (052) 820-1584. For future "Magnificat" shows, call Andy at 780-9210 or 0919 206-5424.

Songs from musicals performed badly

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Saturday night, Channel 2's "Star in A Million" singing tilt had its four remaining finalists compete with each other once more, before reducing their number to only three.

One of the show's weakest portions was its medley of "Broadway" songs performed by the four finalists with current champion Erik Santos.

Medley

When Erik started singing, we sensed that the medley of songs from stage musicals was going to be problematic, because he merely crooned his part of the medley, rather than internalizing and performing it with involvement and energy, as numbers from musicals are meant to be performed.

YNFANTE. Castigated finalists for failing to understand what they were singing.

Alas, all of the four finalists followed suit, with only Nyko even making a token effort to dramatize her rendition in the expected musical-theater manner.

One by one, OJ, Michael and Frenchie merely mouthed the lyrics and hit the right notes of their songs, rather than "selling" them. As a result, the entire medley ended up as one limp and soggy mess.

We thought to ourselves: If they don't understand musical-theater performance, why do they bother having this special portion at all? They should just concentrate on the usual crooning and belting, and leave things well enough alone.

Sentiments

We were gratified when, after the medley, juror Fritz Ynfante, who's directed more than his share of musicals, echoed our unspoken sentiments and castigated the performers for almost completely failing to understand how songs from musical plays should be interpreted and performed.

He observed that their performances were mechanical, and they didn't bother to find out what their songs' lyrics really meant.

We trust that, after that constructive tirade, the remaining finalists will work much harder on their future numbers from stage musicals.

We also noted sadly that champion Erik didn't do any better than this year's finalists. This is disappointing, to say the least. Champions are supposed to set standards for other new talents, but that didn't happen last Saturday.

Top plum

In any case, after the smoke cleared, it turned out that it was Michael's turn to leave the show. This leaves only OJ, Nyko and Frenchie to musically slug it out for the top plum.

The way they performed last Saturday, it looks like Nyko has an edge over the two other remaining finalists. But, when it comes to "Star in A Million," one never really knows, does one? Sigh.

Search is on for the Campus Idol

DO you love to sing? Can you dance to the latest pop tunes? Are you hip, cool and music-savvy? —Then you could be the new Campus Idol!

First of its kind

The first of its kind, Campus Idol is a campus-based talent search for young singing or dancing sensations. It's produced by DL Media Focus, headed by events organizers Arnold Lim and Darryl Duarte, with TV director Pat Perez as creative director.

Campus Idol is open to male and female high school and college students aged 14 to 25 years old. There are two categories for both high school and college levels: solo singers and hip-hop groups, with five to eight members each. Music choices can be from top foreign and OPM hits.

All entries will undergo elimination rounds, starting with a series of school auditions beginning on Sept. 10. The grand finals will be televised.

Prizes

At stake is a cool P100,000 for each Singing Idol and Hip-hop Group Idol, along with computers, scholarships, gift certificates and other big prizes.

Entry forms are available at Campus Idol Secretariat, D.I. Media Focus, Corporate Burgundy Towers, Buendia ave., Makati City. Call 886-4407 or 886-4421.

PEREZ. Creative director.

Nicotina offers good food and entertainment

SINGER and events producer Richard Tann has just opened Nicotina Garden Pavilion, an Italian restaurant alfresco style, which has already been garnering loyal patrons. Although the place has yet to be formally inaugurated, its opening musical salvo was a solo concert by international musician Toti Fuentes last Aug. 25.

MONTAGE

Located on Roxas blvd. corner Williams (beside DFA), Nicotina is a huge living room that uses natural, local materials, with high ceilings, plants, fresh air, and spacious parking.

Situated on a 700-meter garden lot where Tann holds office, Nicotina is a multi-functional venue designed to cater to all kinds of occasions.

Already lined up are the Young Designers' Guild anniversary fashion show on Sept. 30, a one-man exhibit of paintings and sculpture by Carlos Rocha on Oct. 2, shows by alternative singer-composer Bayang Barrios, Richard Tann's regular shows, gigs from Tann's former colleagues in the Circus Band, ballroom dancing nights, Fashion Watch, food festivals, plays, etc.

A lover of Italian food, Tann decided to go Italian, especially after meeting Italian paper expert, Luca Vezzaro, now his business partner, and Luca Magnini, the chef.

BARRIOS. Alternative songs at new Italian restaurant.

At Nicotina, everything is fresh. "We bake our own bread, make our own pasta and pizza dough," says Tann.

There are interesting dishes not found in other Italain restaurants. Very popular is the Pizza al Metro (a one-meter pizza with five different toppings) and Pizza Mezzo Metro (half-meter with three toppings).

Nicotina is open for lunch and dinner. Call 551-7906/551-7907.

'Princess Diaries 2' premiere

Mellow Touch 94.7 is sponsoring the premiere of "Princess Diaries 2" at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 23 at SM Megamall's Cinema 1. The film stars Anne Hathaway and Julie Andrews.

To get exclusive invites, keep listening to 94.7 and, at the DJ's signal, call in and win.

'New Faces'

From Monday, Aug. 23 through Friday, Aug. 27, viewers of Animal Planet will meet the channel's exciting new stars each night, from 10 to 11 p.m.

The new talents are a fresh crop of wildlife hosts whom viewers have never seen before—from a tattooed snake lover to a woman with a passion for wildlife, to two safari guides who boldly encounter the most dangerous African animals.

They are Bruce George from "The Snake Buster," Lyndal Davies from "Lyndal's Lifeline," Mike Penman and Mark Tennant from "Mad Mike and Mark," Annemarie Lucas from "Animal Precinct," and Austin Stevens from "Seven Deadly Strikes."

'The Ultimates'

The Discovery Channel's new series, "The Ultimates," (8 p.m. every Thursday) reveals the science behind high-tech machinery and technology like revolutionary stealth aircraft, race cars that crunch, and flabbergasting roller coasters.

Today at 10 p.m., there's a repeat of the episode on trains. The program offers a fascinating look at the radical concepts that are making trains faster, safer and more futuristic in design and function.

NICOTINA/ DJ

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EUGENE CASTILLO AND THE PPO. Making classical music popular. RUDY ESPERAS

PPO at PDI

By Nestor U. Torre

I WORK hard practically every day of the week, but Thursday is my most challenging and exhausting day of all. I go to my office at the Inquirer at 8:30 in the morning to edit this section, and I work practically nonstop, except for time off for noontime mass and a quick lunch, until late at night.

That's why I was particularly heartened two Thursdays ago when our publisher, Gani Yambot, told me that the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra's new conductor and music director, Eugene Castillo, would be staging a mini-concert for PDI employees with 30 PPO musicians.

This combination of attributes should make him the toast of the music world after his official debut as new PPO head on Sept. 10 at the CCP Main Theater.

The additional plus to all this is that it will make classical music more popular here, especially with young audiences—and that's all to the good!

At the PDI show, Eugene and the PPO were a huge hit, and their performance was greeted with hearty ovations. I had to continue working to meet my deadlines while the PPO played on, but I felt energized, inspired and moved. If this is classical music's wave of the future, I want to come along for the exhilarating ride!

Outreach

Gani, a true-blue lover of the musical arts, was visibly excited about the unusual "office outreach" concert. For my part, I felt energized by the prospect of taking a musical break, and looked forward to the "PPO at PDI" mini-concert.

I also recalled my last conversation with Eugene, during which he shared some of his plans for the PPO, including innovative initiatives to bring classical music out of the CCP complex, to where people live, breathe, study—and work.

Well, the PPO's outreach initiative at the Inquirer was a singular success. The concert was held at the third floor landing, which was a good performance space because it was framed by an arc formed by our building's elegant winding staircase.

Before the concert, I told Eugene that the second-floor landing, where our musical "Magnificat" was staged years ago, was an even better venue because the third floor arc looked down on it like partierre boxes at an opera house. Eugene agreed, and said he would hold his next mini-concert *there*.

Symphony

Our publisher greeted the PPO warmly, and Eugene rode on the welcoming mood by talking animatedly about the Beethoven symphony the scaled-down PPO group would be playing.

This went over very well with the audience of appreciative PDI employees, because it made the music much more accessible to them.

This kind of friendly, open approach will go a long way in helping people get over their unfamiliarity with, or even fear of classical music. And Eugene is the perfect conductor to effect this familiarization gambit because he's relatively young, goodlooking, gifted, eager to share his love for music—and sexy.

Nicotina . . . • From page D2

'Hotstuff, the Video'

Hotstuff, the controversial magazine, is now on video. See the Viva Hot Babes in sizzling poses, and in clips from their most recent movies.

Hosted by Ogie Diaz, the video features Katya, Andrea, Gwen, Jen, Kristine, Hazel, Myles, Sheree, Asia, Ella, Jaycee and Anna Leah. The new video is available on VCD and DVD.

VIVA HOT BABES. From controversial magazine's pages to small screen.

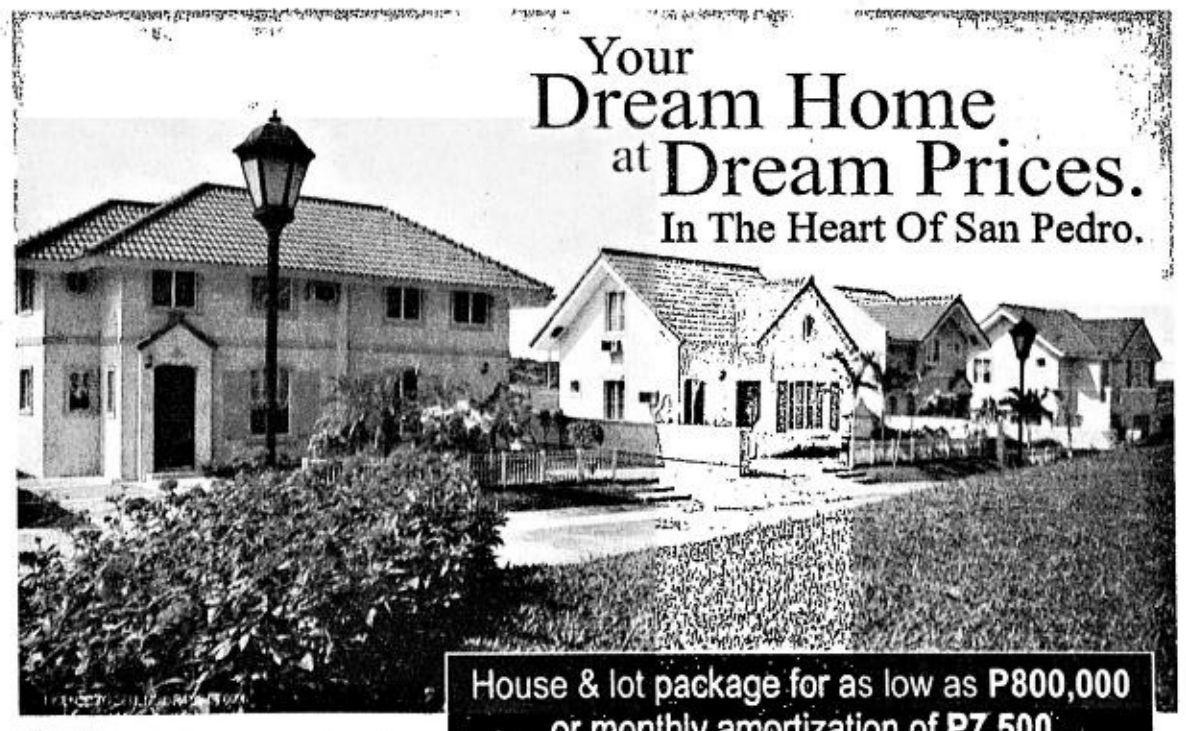
Keanna returns to 'Kontrobersyal'

It was just two weeks ago when controversial bold starlet Keanna Reeves first gave her explosive confession on the "escort service" industry to "Kontrobersyal." Tonight, Keanna returns to share even more shocking stories with host Boy Abunda in this week's edition of "Kontrobersyal," airing at 11 p.m.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Aug. 21 at 8:15 p.m., "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers." Aug. 22 at 11:10 p.m., "Casualties of War." Aug. 23 at 10:30 p.m., "The Bourne Identity." Aug. 24 at 11:15 a.m., "The Laramie Project." Aug. 25 at 5:25 p.m., "Lost in America." Aug. 26 at 1:45 p.m., "Path to War." Aug. 27 at 9 p.m., "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."

On Cinemax, Aug. 21 at 6:45 p.m., "Vanilla Sky." Aug. 22 at 10:45 p.m., "Dead Easy." Aug. 23 at 3:30 p.m., "And the Band Played On." Aug. 24 at 5 p.m., "A Man for All Seasons." Aug. 25 at 2:45 p.m., "The Rise of Evil." Aug. 26 at 7:15 p.m., "Altered States." Aug. 27 at 10 a.m., "Marjorie Morningstar."



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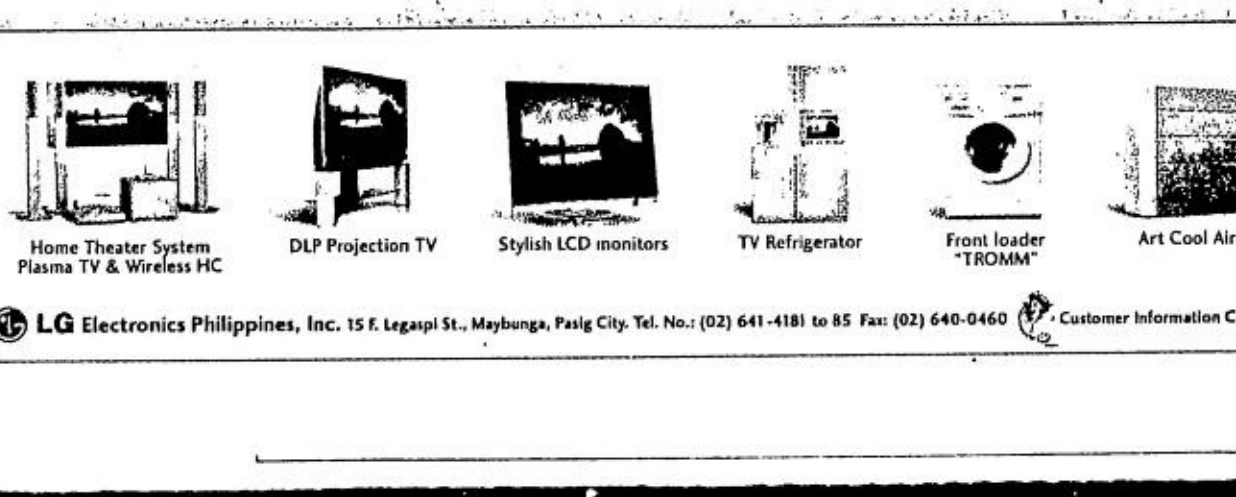

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ATHENS MMS UPDATES

IAN'S A SPLASH!

SWIMMING sensation Ian Thorpe almost didn't make it to the Games in his top event, the 400 meters...

MR. YAO IS A WOW!

CHINA'S top basketball star, Yao Ming, has made an immediate impact in their preliminary match...

ROGER AND OUT

THE hot favourite for the men's singles gold, world number one Roger Federer, has gone out...

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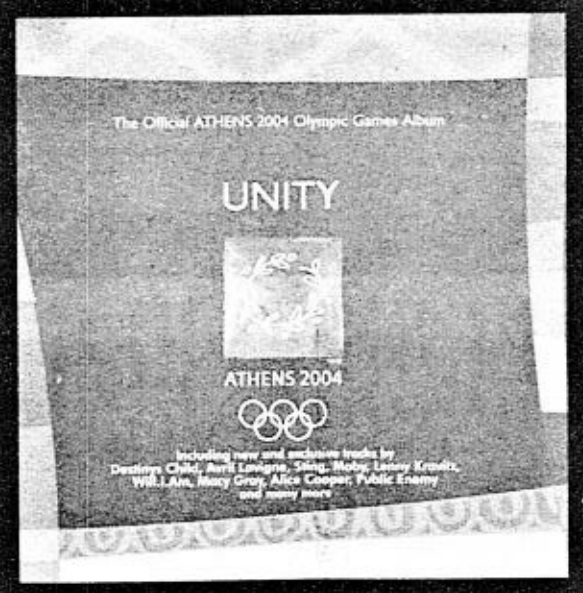

OLYMPIC TONES

SONG TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
Pass the Flame		
The Official Torch Relay Theme	Trevor Horn, Yiannis Kotsiras and Tarkan	passtheflame
A Thousand Years	Sting and Mariza	thousandyrs
Eyes On the Prize	Wayne Wonder and Neneh Cherry	eyesondprize
We Want Peace	Lenny Kravitz and Kadim Al Sahir	wewantpeace
Still Standing	Brian Eno, Skin, Rachid Taha	stillstanding

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Promo runs until September 30, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3950. Series of 2004.

SATURDAY special

Dulce shifts to TV comedy

By Andy Bais

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No sign

But, there's no sign in sight that the Cebuana-belter is slowing down anytime soon. Even better, she has reinvented herself as a TV comedienne on Channel 2's latest dramedy, "Maid in Heaven."

Her entry into acting for TV was fated, she says. *"Alam kong darating ang* offer *na kagaya nito.* Although I got offers to act on TV in the past, somehow, *hindi natutuloy.* I'm happy that, finally, it has been realized," she beams.

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Dulce attributes her latest career surge to God's moving into her life. "Everything happens for a purpose. Maybe, God is using me to inspire others," she observes.

Asked to comment on the new talents who are products of talent searches, Dulce says, *"Puro sila magagaling—kaya lang,* they all sound alike! *Sana,*

DULCE/ E3

Life beyond local movies' 'death'

By Nestor U. Torre

FROM time to time, some inveterate doom-and-gloomers mourn the imminent death of Filipino movies. Whenever we hear this periodic ululation, we remind ourselves that we first heard this dirge—a full 50 years ago!

Yes, that was the time when local movies were doing pretty A-OK, and yet, a venerable industry leader put on figurative sackcloth and ashes and went into full funeral mode, bewailing the local film industry's alleged demise.

Prediction

As we all know, the funereal prediction—was not for real! All subsequent doomsayers have been similarly dead-wrong.

Yes, local movies have been in trouble for a long time now—but they're still here.

Last year, we made 71 movies—that's a far cry from our old total of 150 or more, but that's still more than what most other Southeast Asian countries make each year.

Things are taking on a particularly dire coloration this year, because somebody who's been counting the Filipino movie industry's output for the first half of 2004 says that the total is something like only 27 films.

Double that, and you'll get only around 54 movies this year, or 17 less than last year—another substantial decline that we can't afford to experience.

Well, we think that the extrapolated total is off the mark. Yes, local movies are in a slump, but films continue to be produced, festivals are being held, so we're hazarding the educated guess that, dismal signs to the contrary notwithstanding, we'll still produce more movies in 2004 than we did last year.

Are we being a cockeyed optimist? Well, that's better than being a pusillanimous pessimist, that's for sure!

Positive attitude

Of course, it's good to be a realist, but a positive attitude is sorely needed in sad and bad times, like the ones we're having.

The best stance would be a combination of realist and positivist attitudes, and that's what we should all aim for, to get us out of the rut we're in.

One positive sign that we shouldn't pooh-pooh is the rise of new producers. Yes, established studios have cut down on production, but new financiers, some of them quite innovative, have come in to take up some of the slack.

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Lorraine Opeña
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SATURDAY Special

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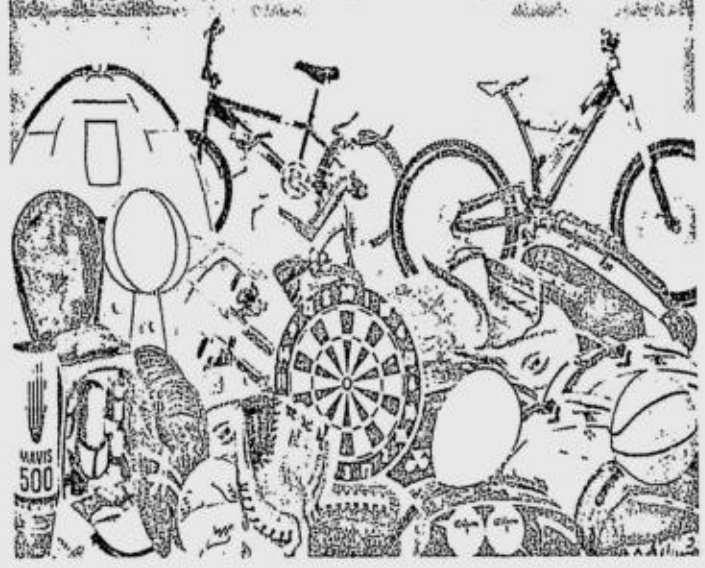

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LIFE/ E3

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More comic strips adapted for the screen

WE are happy to accommodate requests for more trivia about comic strips that have been adapted for the big and small screens:

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Rito P. Asilo

You know the famous teenagers of Riverdale High, right? An amusing adaptation of the teenage comic series was Dick Lowry's 1990 TV movie, "Archie: To Riverdale and Back," based on John L. Goldwater's popular characters. Starring Christopher Rich ("Murphy Brown") as Archie Andrews, Lauren Holly as Betty Cooper, Karen Kopins as Veronica Lodge, Gary Kroeger as Reggie Mantle and Sam Whipple as Jughead Jones.

Adults

In the made-for-TV film, the well-loved characters are already adults: Betty is a teacher, and Archie is not as goody-two-shoes as he used to be—he "lives in" with his fiancee! What say you, Archie fans?

In 1963, as a spin-off from the well-loved Archie characters, artist Dan DeCarlo, who had been drawing Betty and Veronica since 1957, developed a series about a high school rock 'n' roll band. He called it "She's Josie" (named after her wife).

Hanna-Barberra developed it into an animated show, "Josie and the Pussycats." An ownership dispute over the characters resulted in DeCarlo getting fired from Archie Comics in May 2000.

PRINZE and Gellar in "Scooby Doo."

RICH. Played Archie Andrews.

About the same time, "Josie" was adapted into a live-action film feature, starring Rachel Leigh Cook as Josie McCoy, Tara Reid as clueless blonde bombshell Melody, and Rosario Dawson as Valerie.

Mysterious

Dale Messick's "Brenda Starr" initially encountered "resistance" when it debuted in 1940, because its creator and main character were women.

Before Messick retired, though, she had Brenda marry the mysterious Basil St. John. The most recent of its film adaptations was the 1989 box-office debacle that starred Brooke Shields and Timothy Dalton.

In 1995, Sylvester Stallone portrayed another comics hero in the film, "Judge Dredd," based on the popular British sci-fi series that came out for the first time in 1977. The movie also bombed.

Scooby Doo was first a TV show before it found its way to comic-book pages. The story initially focused on four young people who traveled in a van to solve mysteries wherever they went.

Then, CBS honcho Fred Silverman decided he wanted the large dog (named after a nonsense phrase from Frank Sinatra's "Strangers in the Night") to become the star of the show.

Its 2002 film adaptation (starring Freddie Prinze Jr. as Fred, Matthew Lillard as Shaggy, and Sarah Michelle Gellar as Daphne) scored at the US box office with a total gross that almost tripled its $84-million budget!

* * *

Tami Monsod, Leo Rialp in NVC's "Sacrilege"

Theater stalwart Tami Monsod plays Sister Grace, and actor-director Leo Rialp portrays Cardinal King in New Voice's timely staging of Diane Shaffer's controversial play, "Sacrilege."

As provocative as it is intelligently written, the play is about a nun who's at the forefront of a movement to allow women in the priesthood. Cast includes Jamie Wilson, Michael Williams, Paul Holme, Jenny Jamora, Lara de Jesus and Rabbi Gannaban. The play runs from Sept. 3 to Sept. 11 at the Republic of Malate. Call 896-5497/ 896-6695.

Dino Guevarra gets his second chance

By Remy Umerez

FRIDAY the 13th turned out to be a lucky day for comebacking star Dino Guevarra.

He emerged the sole winner in the reality show tilt, "30 Days," whom judges, his colleagues in the business, and thousands of texters chose to be given the show's coveted second chance.

Before the show went on live that day, Dino shared some of his thoughts with us:

Bit roles

The former Abstract dancer did a few bit roles for Regal before transferring to Viva. Together with Kim delos Santos, he starred in some youth-oriented movies like "Sana Ikaw Na Nga" and "Ikaw Lamang."

Love bloomed between the two, and this put a stop to their careers. They got married and raised a family.

To earn a living, Dino engaged in buy and sell. He ran for councilor in Parañaque, but lost. The experience taught Dino that politics is not for him.

Moral support

Then came "30 days," and Dino's friends urged him to give the tilt a try. The biggest moral support came from his wife, Kim. But, Dino backed out of the audition. "*Ninerbiyos ako,*" he winces.

Luckily, he returned the following day. A few days later, he was informed that he had qualified for "30 Days."

GUEVARRA. Lessons in humility.

Of his month-long experience, Dino shares: "I learned a lot, like being humble and controlling my frankness." I realized *na nakakasakit pala ako ng damdamin.*

Blocking

"From the show's workshops, I discovered that acting is not an easy job. I though it was simply a matter of memorizing lines and remembering blocking. But I know now that it's about internalizing, being sensitive to your role, and living it."

Whatever role GMA-7 will give Dino, he promises to be professional. "I don't want to waste this second chance. I want the audience to see my serious side as an actor."

Last Aug. 13, Dino went home assured of a management contract with GMA, his wallet fatter by P300,000. He was the picture of a man no longer afraid to face challenges!

Campaign against erring television celebrities urged

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER Joey de Leon was suspended from hosting "Eat Bulaga" for two months for uttering a crass no-no, a veritable Tower of Babel of conflicting reactions ensued.

Joey's supporters complained that he had been misheard, that he had actually said something less objectionable, that the penalty was too harsh, that other TV people had said and done worse things on the tube so it was unfair to hit on Joey and make him a scapegoat for the TV industry's collective sins of omission and commission.

On the other hand, viewers who had witnessed the offending episode said Joey *did* say "that" word, and that pushing the envelope for what's tolerable on the tube has been par for the long course for him.

Vulnerable children

They point to him as the typical macho TV host who loves to say "naughty" things to make viewers laugh, forgetting that there are impressionable and vulnerable children watching.

Even when they get criticized or penalized, "macho" hosts treat everything like a joke—only, nobody's laughing. And, in this instance, the joke's on *them*.

Particularly interesting are the reactions of young comics on TV, some of whom say that the penalty imposed on Joey has served as a timely reminder to them of their responsibility to viewers, especially the youth, to provide clean entertainment.

Others rap Joey for going overboard because he's a senior and presumably mature talent who should know better than to cheekily try to test TV's limits by being too naughty for comfort.

They also point out that "naughtiness" should be reserved for the late-night telecasting hours, when most children are presumably asleep. It has no business being resorted to on a noontime show, which has a "family" audience of all ages.

All this is all too true, of course, but we must agree that Joey is being singled out too much, while other offenders are going scot-free.

Reprehensible

For instance, noontime shows don't just have *pilyo* hosts, they also have sexy dancers gyrating suggestively in skimpy wear, bold stars guesting in various capacities and being encouraged to be at their cheap-sexy "best," hosts and guests who may not say something off-color, but behave in differently reprehensible ways—etc!

And what about the sitcoms and "comedy" shows with their heavy load of leering sexiness, musical programs featuring suggestive songs with off-color lyrics, even newscasts with reports that have a lot of excessive sex and violence?

Surely, they are similarly reprehensible, and children should also be protected from their excesses.

So, the penalty imposed on Joey de Leon should be followed by sanctions on other offenders on the tube, resulting in a comprehensive clean-up campaign that should be vigorously supported by the viewing public. That means all of us!

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG. 21 - AUG. 27

CH	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
2	Star in A Million	TV Patrol	National Geographic	Yan Ang Pinoy	Asian 9 Ball	Viva Box Office *Working Girls 2*	Sing-Galing	Maverick and Ariel	On-Air	ABC Treats *Mr. Johnson*		
4	Rated K-Handa Ka Na Ba?	Wansapanataym	15th Mitsubishi Lancer Int'l Juniors Tennis Championships		Best of PBA Games	Viva Cine Idols *Mistah*	*Klasik Kayumanggi Part I*	ABC Onstage *Concert for Queen Elizabeth*				
5	TV Patrol	Victim Extreme	Concert at the Park	Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	Sentro	The Outsiders	Gagsters	Friends	The Apprentice	Crouching Tiger	Dretsahan	
7	TV Patrol	Victim Extreme	Paco Park Presents	Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	Sentro	The Outsiders	Puso O Pera	Wow Mali	Crouching Tiger	Extreme Island Race 2		
9	TV Patrol	Victim Extreme	Family Rosary Crusade	Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	Sentro	The Outsiders	Greatest Fights of the Century	Fearless Fighting	Crouching Tiger			
11	TV Patrol	Victim Extreme	Phil. Land Admin Docu	The Working President	The Probe Team Documentaries	Inquirer TV	Crouching Tiger	Extreme Island Race 2				
13	TV Patrol	Victim Extreme	Paco Park Presents	Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	Sentro	The Outsiders	Asian Cinema *Born Wild*	Crouching Tiger				

CH	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
2	Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo	7 Days	John Doe	Saturday Night Playhouse	PGMA							
4	Smack Down Wrestling	Ripley's Believe It or Not	May Puso ang Batas	Sunday's Big Event	URRC TV							
5	Pinoy Pop Superstar	Bitoy's Funniest Videos	Extra Challenge	Sing-Galing	Idol Ko Si Kap	Kakabakaba Adventures						
7	Partners Mel & Ja.	Kl The P1 Million Videoke Challenge	Daddy Di Do Du	Sunday Night Box Office								
9	Jobs and Visa Central	Bitag	Ugnayang Pambansa	D E N R	El Shaddai							
11	Home Shopping Network	Legacy of Hero	Pemsea	In This Corner	Global Family Series	El Shaddai						

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2	Sports TV	Game Plan	7th Heaven	Boston Public	America's Next Top Model	Studio 23 Presents	Reel Deal					
4	Fighting	The Amazing Race	Two & a Half Men	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour	The Bachelor	Scariest Places on Earth			
5	Aguila Reports	Screen Savers	Euromaxx	Car Guys	DWTV Journal	Ang Tamang Daan	Pasugo					
7	Captured	Fresh Gear	Convergence	Euromaxx	New Yankee Workshop	DWTV Journal	Ang Tamang Daan	Ang Iglesia ni Cristo				
9	Batman Animated	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup, Wazzup	World's Craziest Videos	Buffy	Charmed	News Central	Oprah	Travel Time			
11	Net 25 Report	World Report Filipino Edition	Openline	Euromaxx	Convergence	DWTV Journal	Ang Tamang Daan	Pasugo				

CH	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
2	RJ Music Videos	Music Videos	Music Videos	Music Videos								
4	RJ Music Videos	Music Videos	Music Videos	Music Videos								
5	Invader Zim	Entertainment Tonight	Just for Laffs	Jag	The Agency	Newswatch Now	Sex & the City	Ateber				
7	Invader Zim	Entertainment Tonight	Ed	Ally McBeal	Specials	Newswatch Now	Sports in Focus	Global Window				
9	Home Shopping Network	Retro TV	Japan Video Topic	Global Family Series	Lunawin Natin	BYK 101	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers				
11	Home Shopping Network	Retro TV	WWE Experience	Travel (replay)	Global Family Series	Land Admin Project	Japan Video Topic	IBC News Tonite	Opinyon at Desisyon			

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2	RJ Music Videos	Music Videos	Music Videos	Music Videos								
4	RJ Music Videos	Music Videos	Music Videos	Music Videos								
5	24 Oras	Extra Challenge	Mulawin	Te Amo	Marinara	30 Days	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita	Saksi	I-Witness			
7	24 Oras	Extra Challenge	Mulawin	Te Amo	Marinara	30 Days	All Together Now	Saksi	Reporter's Notebook			
9	24 Oras	Extra Challenge	Mulawin	Te Amo	Marinara	30 Days	Nuts Entertainment	Saksi	Jessica Soho Reports			
11	24 Oras	Extra Challenge	Mulawin	Te Amo	Marinara	30 Days	Magpakailanman	Saksi	Debate			
13	24 Oras	Extra Challenge	Mulawin	Te Amo	Marinara	30 Days	Bubble Gang	Saksi	Emergency			

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4	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup, Wazzup	Strange Brew	Smallville	Angel	News Central	Oprah	The Men's Room			
5	Batman Animated	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup, Wazzup	Mr. Bean Live Series	CSI	Alias	News Central	Oprah	Life			
7	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup, Wazzup	Barkada Nights	News Central	Oprah	Twilight Zone					
9	Teen Titans	Justice League	Wazzup, Wazzup	SpiderMan	The Next Joe Millionaire	Fast Lane	News Central	Oprah	Twilight Zone			
11	Batman Animated	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup, Wazzup	Barkada Nights	News Central	Oprah	Twilight Zone					

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5	Net 25 Report	World Report Filipino Edition	Openline	Euromaxx	Fresh Gear	DWTV Journal	Ang Tamang Daan	The Message				
7	Net 25 Report	World Report Filipino Edition	Openline	Euromaxx	Auto Motor and Sports	DWTV Journal	Ang Tamang Daan	The Message				
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9	RJ Music Videos	Music Videos	Music Videos	Music Videos								
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Brando: 'Conformity breeds mediocrity'

By Nestor U. Torre

MARLON Brando's wife, Anna Kashfi, reveals that, even after his signal success in "A Streetcar Named Desire," Brando still found himself at loose ends, and desperately strapped for funds.

For instance, when he upchucked everything and ran off to Paris, France, Brando lost his passport and all of his money to local predators, and was even reduced to panhandling in Montmarte. In exchange for a passage home, he agreed to act in "The Men" for MGM.

Reputation

However, instead of being grateful, Marlon continued to antagonize the establishment, achieving a reputation for infantile behavior difficult to rival even in Hollywood, whose denizens aren't exactly famous for mature behavior.

He insulted the powerful show biz columnist Louella Parsons by calling her "the fat one." He told a reporter that his parents were displaced persons from Poland, another that his daily diet consisted mostly of gazelle's eyes! He variously claimed that his birthplace was Bangkok, Outer Mongolia or the Gobi Desert.

The gossip columnists were outraged and responded in kind. Parsons seethed, "He has the manners of a chimpanzee, the gall of a Kinsey researcher, and a swelled head the size of a Navy blimp—and just as pointed."

Press

For his part, Brando delighted in further shocking the movie press. When a reporter inquired about his bathing habits, he replied, "I spit in the air and then run under it!"

Brando got his first Oscar for his performance as Terry Malloy in "On the Waterfront." Anna Kashfi reveals the little-known fact that the plum role of the stevedore had been promised to Frank Sinatra!

But, Brando did the impossible and stole the role from the much more popular and powerful Sinatra, who angrily slapped producer Sam Spiegel with a suit asking for $500,000 for breach of contract.

Accused of being a troublemaker, Brando proudly riposted: "I'll be damned if I have to defend myself, but I have always hated being obliged to conform. I agree that no man is an island, but I also feel that conformity breeds mediocrity. This country needs to be more tolerant of the expression of individuality!"

When Brando played Sky Masterson in the musical film, "Guys and Dolls," his co-star was Frank Sinatra, his former rival for the role of Terry Malloy in "On the Waterfront." Since the movie was a musical, Sinatra had a decided advantage.

Brando's singing, Sinatra sneered, was "like the mating call of a yak in heat." Thus did Sinatra join the lengthening list of stars who found no friend in Marlon Brando—nor he in them.

Falling in love

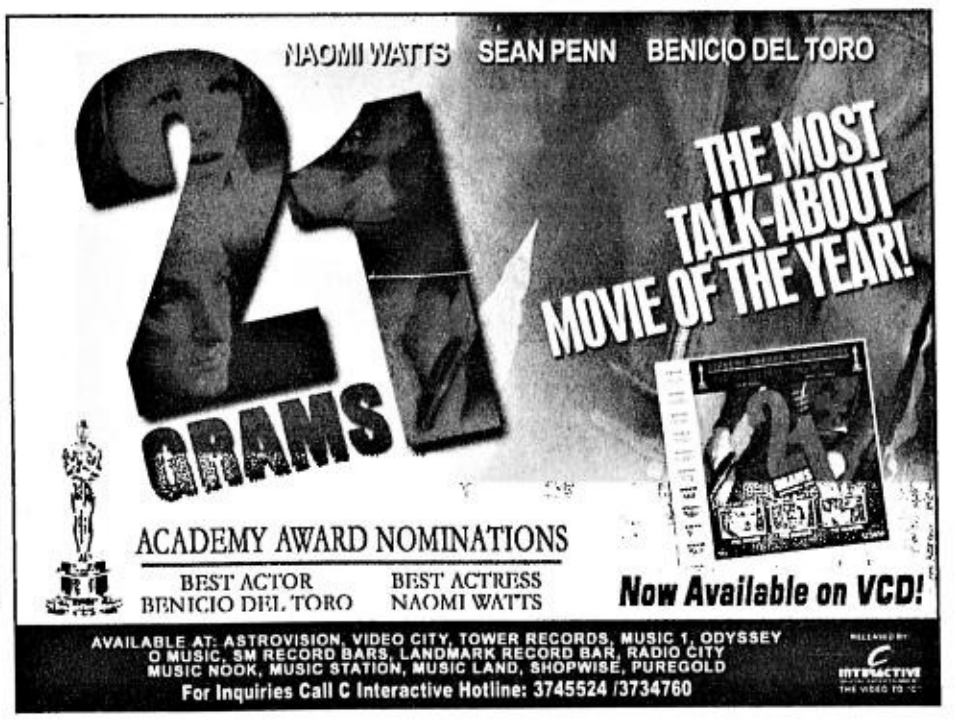
But, what about Anna Kashfi? How did she end up falling in love and then marrying the complicated, confounding Marlon Brando? Drily, she recalls:

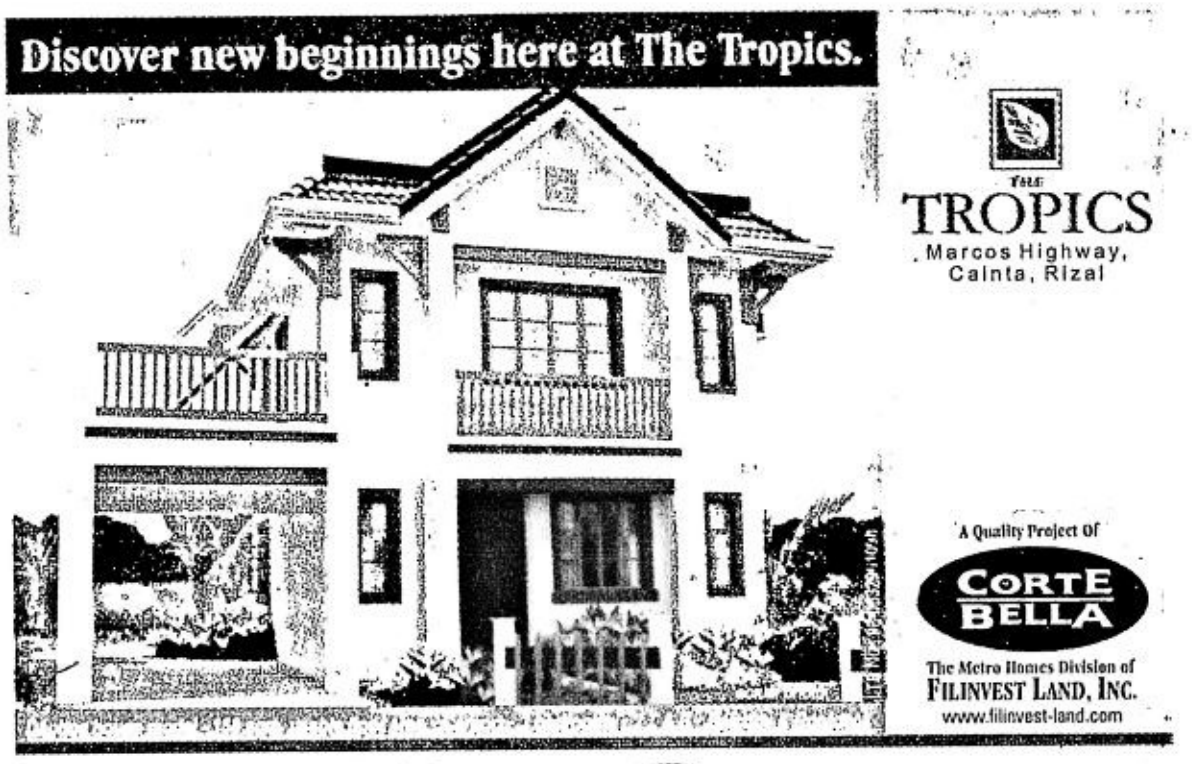
"I went to bed with Marlon mostly out of curiosity. His seduction technique showed all of the subtlety of a guillotine. We were watching TV in my apartment when, abruptly, he picked me up and carried me into the bedroom.

"When I asked him if he had rape in mind, he answered, 'Rape is just assault with a friendly weapon!"

Sadly, in the months and years to come, Kashfi would discover to her chagrin that Brando and his "weapon" weren't that "friendly" after all!

BRANDO. Complicated and confounding.





Life . . .

From page E1

And there's an incipient move, paced by Cesar Montano's new film (currently being shot in Bohol), "Panaghoy sa Suba," to revive Visayan movies.

Isn't that beautifully ironic? Even as some people are mourning the "death" of Filipino movies, somebody is bringing the decades-long-dead Visayan film industry back to life!

Funeral choir

So, let's not be predictable and uncool. *Don't* join the doom-and-gloom funeral choir mourning the "demise" of local movies.

Far better for us to think of solutions, not condolences, and to work hard to come up with films fresh enough to tickle moviegoers' fancy once more.

In any case, things will really start looking up in 2005, when the new Cinemalaya alternative filmmaking tilts come to a head in February, with 10 short stories and 10 full-length feature films competing for the top plums.

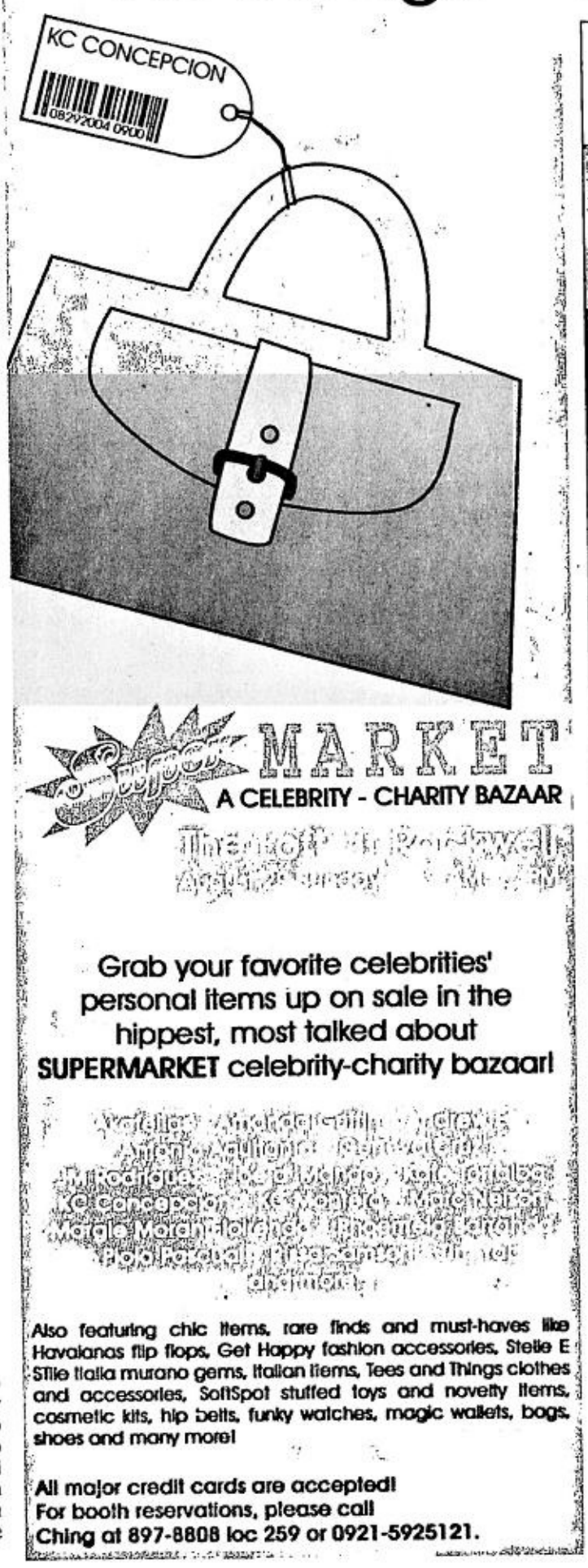
What a bonanza, a bright augury of better film times!

Dulce . . .

From page E1

in time, they will develop their own style, because *that* is more lasting."

Dulce doesn't hide her humble background. She doesn't consider it a disadvantage. "Grade Six *lang ang natapos ko, pero yung kakulangan ko* has motivated me to succeed. Up to now, I still remember the person who taught me how to pronounce a word correctly. I was open to corrections, *kaya ako natuto,*" she beams.



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She RING ID: 100903	Squeezy RING ID: 100904	Sunday Driving RING ID: 100905	Table for Two RING ID: 100906	Take My Cue RING ID: 100907

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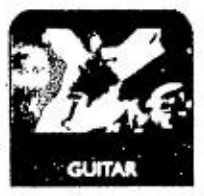

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Ex: TONE BALISONG to 299

POLYTONES:
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Sunday Driving	SUNDRIVE

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Editor Pam Pastor
Creative Director Tim Yap

up stage

Lea Salonga page F2 is NOT pregnant!
Bench's State of the Nation page G1 undressed
Thank God page F3 it's Pride day

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: STEVE TIRONA
Assistant: MARCUS MAGUIGAD
Cover Star: LEA SALONGA
Location: MERALCO THEATER

The road to Deca

Lemon-aide

Giselle Segovia

RUMOR has it that several Hollywood personalities are coming to town. Reports are unclear on whether they will be actors, actresses, directors, producers or scriptwriters. But it's a rare enough event when even just one celeb from the tinsel town of tinsel towns comes to visit. And so you must forgive me if I am absolutely bursting.

Top-grossing films will be given awards during a grand festivity, "The Decada Awards." The event celebrates Taters' 10 years of providing movie lovers with superb and healthy food to munch on while indulging in suspension of disbelief. If the luminaries are in any way connected to some of the films being cited, we should be in for the biggest surprise. Consider the compelling titles: "Lord of the Rings," "ID4" and "Spider-Man." Film buffs, hear ye, and just imagine the possibilities!

But tell you what: it's all hush-hush, so whatever you read, you didn't read it here, okay?

CHEESE, miss!

Saturday, August 21

Foreign acts are surely coming in torrents. Watch Javier ("Crazy," "If I Never Get to Heaven," and "October Sky") live at the Alabang Town Center. Bring a date if you can because it looks like the music is going to be on the lovey-dovey side. At the Corte de las Palmas, 7 p.m. Or maybe you'd rather rock at Mayric's 9th Anniversary. "Back to the Edge (The Beat and the Generation)" promises to put the best indie bands onstage, among them Dead Pop Stars, The Late Isabel and Orange and Lemons. Only 100 bucks will be charged at the door, and you even get a local drink with it. Talk about good deals.

Sunday, August 22

For some of you who don't remember, this month is when we celebrate the national language every year. Some people recalled perfectly, though. The Center for Pop Music Philippines Inc. presents a concert tonight featuring its students in a production titled "Basta't Pinoy." Songs and dance numbers will reflect Filipino culture and traditions. At the Philamlife Theater, UN Avenue, Manila, 6 p.m.

Monday, August 23

And the Commercial Movie of the Week award goes to ... "Alien vs. Predator!" In truth, I am a tad hesitant to see this one, but I am almost certain that curiosity will get the better of me in the end. Save this day for sweet escapism—visiting the cinema!

Tuesday, August 24

At 5:30 p.m., the first-ever "Decada Awards" kicks off at the Glorietta Activity Center to cite the top-grossing motion pictures of the past decade. Presented by Taters, almost-an-institution-in-cinemas, and produced by JP Tanchanco, the affair gathers celebrities and media people together in an extravagant show of lights and production numbers. Hosts for the night: Super!'s Tim Yap and my favorite local MTV veejay, Sarah Meier.

Wednesday, August 25

Today's theme for ongoing First Pride International Film Festival is "Pride, Freedom and HIV/AIDS Awareness." The mission, of course, is to help advocate AIDS awareness/HIV education through movies. Viewings are at the CCP Dream Theater, and tickets are available at Ticketworld and Tower Records; also at the CCP box office, tel. 832-2704.

Thursday, August 26

Last call for artist Judy Watson's exhibit, "Sacred Ground, Beating Heart," presented by the Australian Embassy at the Main Gallery of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

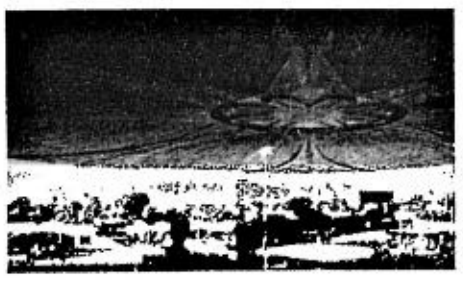
Friday, August 27

The 21st "Kulay sa Tubig" watercolor exhibit at the Gallery Genesis highlights works of 70 artists, among them Alfred Galura and several Hall of Famers. For details, call 633-8137. Gallery Genesis is at the Art Center of SM Megamall, Bldg. A.

The Word for the Bored:

"You know, obviously, I have this sort of strange animal magnetism. It's very hard for me to take my eyes off myself."

–Mick Jagger, In Style magazine



THE START and end of a decade

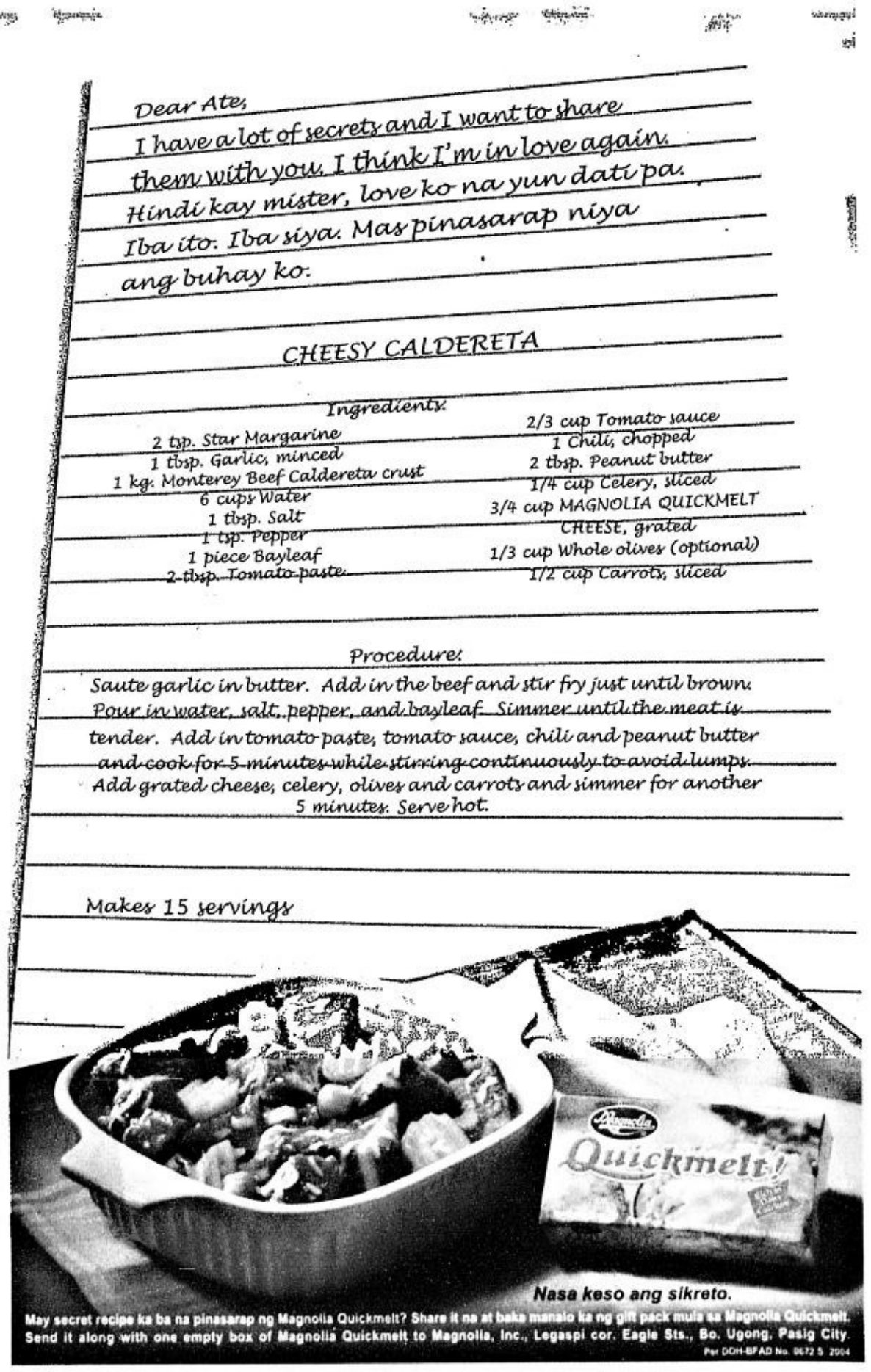
Dear Ate,
I have a lot of secrets and I want to share them with you. I think I'm in love again. Hindi kay mister, love ko na yun dati pa. Iba ito. Iba siya. Mas pinasarap niya ang buhay ko.

CHEESY CALDERETA

Ingredients:
2 tsp. Star Margarine
1 tbsp. Garlic, minced
1 kg. Monterey Beef Caldereta crust
6 cups Water
1 tbsp. Salt
1 tsp. Pepper
1 piece Bayleaf
2 tbsp. Tomato paste
2/3 cup Tomato sauce
1 Chili, chopped
2 tbsp. Peanut butter
1/4 cup Celery, sliced
3/4 cup MAGNOLIA QUICKMELT CHEESE, grated
1/3 cup Whole olives (optional)
1/2 cup Carrots, sliced

Procedure:
Saute garlic in butter. Add in the beef and stir fry just until brown. Pour in water, salt, pepper, and bayleaf. Simmer until the meat is tender. Add in tomato paste, tomato sauce, chili and peanut butter and cook for 5 minutes while stirring continuously to avoid lumps. Add grated cheese, celery, olives and carrots and simmer for another 5 minutes. Serve hot.

Makes 15 servings



Nasa keso ang sikreto.

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Lea Salonga is not pregnant!

By Tim Yap

ROCK-A-BYE BABY. Lea Salonga's backstage pause PHOTOS BY STEVE TIRONA

THAT'S because she just gave birth to Atlantis Productions' latest baby, "Baby," where she plays Lizzie, a 20-year-old feisty female who all of a sudden gets faced with the challenge of having a baby in her life.

"I feel wiser," she tells me while putting on her makeup backstage at the Meralco Theater. I remember the last time I shared backstage moments with Lea during the nineties in "Grease," where she played Sandy Dumbrowski. She hasn't aged a single day. "I take care of myself," she shares before getting ready to go onstage.

When director Bobby Garcia announces a company call, Lea is first to arrive. "Ah, the Philippine eagle is here," he calls her out and they both laugh. To fill you all in on this joke, it all started when, in another show, the host called Lea, "our national treasure." Mulawin much!

Backstage, they discuss how to make the show better. Lea, true to her character Lizzie, "just wants it all." She just doesn't stop at making herself better. Even after rehearsals, she is online with her director (until 2:30 am, even!), "to better the process."

"I'm more tolerant now. I didn't even drink alcohol before. Now I'm always in search for the best cocktails—the best cosmo, the best mojito..." And it shows, even in her choice of roles. (Watch Baby, and you'll see.)

"Is that your hair? Cute, nice!" Doting mom Ligaya (Tita Bebeng to you and me) takes a final look at her daughter and makes sure her baby is A-okay. "She types so fast! She drives even faster!" Her mom tells me while Lea answers the Super! questionnaire.

The thing about fame is: that everyone suddenly becomes so much nicer, that you don't know if they're being nice sincerely, or if they need a favor. Discerning that becomes much more difficult.

The thing I love most about what I do is: the discovery of a character, finding what makes her tick and traveling on that journey with her. It's so much fun when opening

to STAGE

"LOOK around you anywhere, life is changing everywhere..."

night arrives... it's a rush!

People might be surprised to know that I am: so not a girly girl. Don't give me flowers, give me gadgets, CD's, speakers, headphones. I'm a techophile (if there is such a word). Flowers die after a week, a CD will be with me forever (or close to it).

The most important thing I've ever learned is: how to figure out who your real friends are. I've had to let go of a few because I couldn't wholeheartedly and fully trust them.

I wish when I started off I'd been told: that it's not worth sweating over the small stuff. And a lot of it is small stuff.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was: waking up in jagged sobs during the run of a show.

And what this taught me was: that I needed to get my a** to a voice teacher and get stronger.

The happiest moment of my life was: my wedding day!

The secret to happiness is: you don't find it; it finds you.

My best ever outfit consisted of: (not counting my wedding gown) a great pair of jeans, red boots, a crisp white shirt, cool earrings and a matching purse. Hair pulled back and clean, of course!

My Super! Saturday night consists: of great food, good drinks, friends and conversation.

The soundtrack to my life would include: every song on my iPod (jazz, hard rock, soundtracks and some serious Nat King Cole).

If I was invisible for a day, I would: visit the President's office, watch all the blockbuster movies, visit Manila's best kitchens for cooking secrets, and maybe—MAYBE!—spy on all my ex-boyfriends to make sure they were happy and doing well.

The thing that makes me most angry is: breach of trust, self-frustration and unprofessional behavior. That last one is inexcusable.

If I was the most powerful person on earth: I'd rid the world of poverty, repair the ozone layer, and ensure equality among races.

My first baby's name will be: I don't know... but I want the name Beverly in the girl's name, to commemorate my husband's late mother. She was such a wonderful woman, and I want my daughter to celebrate her.

The best thing about family is: that no matter what, you know that they'll be there for you to go back to.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say: a range of things from "She was such a b****" to "She did the best she could and was the best friend you could have."

If money was no option, I would: buy homes in different places: Malibu, NYC's Park Avenue, Baguio, or take a cruise to Europe at least once a month.

When I retire, I would like to: travel all over the world with my husband, take loads of pictures and pass them to our grandchildren.

The world would be a much better place if: we could really all just get along.

My hero is: my mother... her life was so difficult and challenging, but she weathered all her storms and came out strong and almost invincible, but still loving and tender. She's the coolest.

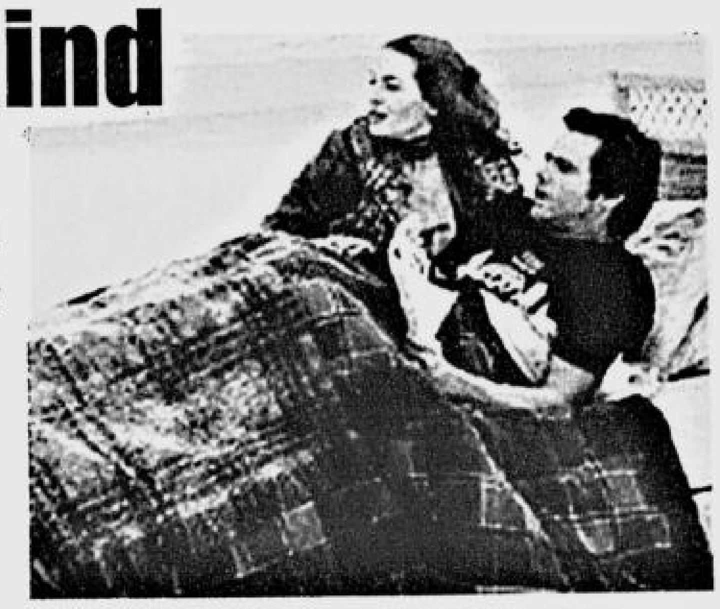
The thing that makes my life worth living is: getting up to do what I love to do for a living, and waking up beside my best friend everyday.

My greatest hope for the future is: that our country finds itself out of "third world" classification someday. We are an intelligent, warm, resilient and resourceful people... there's no reason why we shouldn't be able to achieve our dreams and goals.

Journey into the spotless mind

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz



How happy is the blameless vestal's lot!
The world forgetting, by the world forgot.
Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind!
Each pray'r accepted, and each wish resign'd
"Eloisa to Abelard," by Alexander Pope

"Is there any risk of brain damage?"
"Technically speaking, the procedure is brain damage, but it's at par with a night of heavy drinking. Nothing you'll miss."
—Dialogue between characters Joel Barrish and Dr. Mierwiak, prior to the memory erasing process

IN A FIT of short-lived contempt, a friend deleted her current paramour's number from her mobile phone. If only it were that easy, I told her, to erase someone from memory. Unlike a digital device that works within black-and-white parameters, the human mind is a labyrinth of gray matter. We can block people and places, bury painful emotions, dust away dark memories in an attempt to forget. But always, somewhere, they remain alive.

The process of induced memory loss is explored by the film, "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," a movie that has left local theaters just as quietly as it sneaked in. Only a handful of people got to see it in the past two weeks that it was shown, especially since the film got eclipsed by some of the bigger Hollywood titles. Some older people told me that they were hit with vertigo as they followed the unconventional, non-linear plot line unfold on screen. Others expressed disappointment upon finding out it wasn't in the usual dumb-and-dumber genre as they expected, with Jim Carrey on top billing. Yet it became reason enough for a few trusted peers to schedule sacred, post-viewing conferences over coffee and cigarettes, usually a sign that a film has sown just the right amount of confusion and fascination, thus reserving precious space in my already-cramped DVD shelf.

Erase and rewind

"There's an emotional core to every memory. When you eradicate that core, it starts its degradation process... in the morning, all the memories of your target will disappear, as in a dream upon awakening," explains the film's character Dr. Mierwiak about his revolutionary process of memory erasure. The willing patient is the melancholic Joel Barrish (played by Jim Carrey and refreshingly far removed from the Ace Ventura stereotype), who decides to undergo the procedure to erase the memories of his tumultuous relationship with his ex-girlfriend Clementine (Kate Winslet). Yet when he undergoes the procedure, he rediscovers his love for her. Thus, Joel goes "off the map" of his mind in an attempt to keep the few remaining memories of Clementine intact, while being chased through the network of his subconscious by Dr. Mierzwiak's crew.

There really is a gossamer line between happiness and suffering, love and hatred, even remembering and forgetting—for one merely serves to magnify the other. Sometimes, it is only through loss that we realize what we truly possessed. It is but human to dwell within reconstructed memories, yet choosing to live in the past can make the present unbearable. In living what we define as perfect moments, there remains a nagging fear that they will not last. Curiously, it is this very element of transience that intensifies the experience. Should that keep us from giving ourselves fully to the experience? I always liken every relationship, every friendship, to the passion and quiescence of the setting sun. In what I thought was the most poignant scene of the film, painted by the twilight of the closing day, Clementine says, "This is it, Joel. I'll be gone soon. What do we do?" He responds: "Enjoy it."

How many times have we regretted not staying longer with a person when we had the chance, because of imagined fears about the day after?

The real in surreal

Call it strangelove at first sight when I first happened upon the mind of a scriptwriter who could conceive of such a deranged concept that is the premise of "Being John Malkovich"—a puppeteer working on the 7th-and-a-half floor of an office building discovers a portal that leads directly into the mind of actor John Malkovich. I've always been attracted to eccentrics and bizarre circumstance, and scriptwriter Charlie Kaufman is a certified quirk. "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" is yet another field trip into the paradoxical landscape of his creation.

What I find intriguing within such surreal scapes is that many times, past the indisputable absurdities, I actually find more insights that mirror real life. It's the "real" in the "surreal"—certainly more wisdom than any of the "reality" TV programs that make you wonder what planet (or state of America) some of the moronic "real people" come from. "Eternal Sunshine," for all its psuedo-scientific experiments, wild goose chases in the subconscious, kitchen sink bathtubs and vanishing people, is infinitely more romantic than those programs on cable TV. When "real" people choose between love or money, when cardboard-like bachelors choose their brides from a bevy of other cardboard personalities, when couples race to the altar for a prize—does that not reek more of fantasy?

In one of the concluding scenes in "Eternal Sunshine," the last landmark of Joel's happy memory with Clementine, the couple breaks into a beach house that slowly dissolves into the surf of long-term amnesia. It seemed so real to me in the sense that it conveyed the nakedness of human emotion and the reality of regret. "I wish I had stayed longer," confessed Joel, as he revisited that time in his life when his fears of rejection overruled his heart. How many times have we regretted not staying longer with a person when we had the chance, because of imagined fears about the day after?

Blessed are the forgetful

So are the "forgetful truly blessed," as Nietzsche once said? Certainly, there is an ounce of cure in forgetting. Happy memories are often tinged with a little pain, especially when there are deeper emotions at the core. In the remembrance of things past, we are tempted to wash away painful memories. But in the end, we keep them anyway, because in the infinity of the moment, we also realize what, at that certain point in our lives, defined true happiness. Indeed, it is happiness that becomes eternal because of our capacity to remember.

(Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)

Thank God it's Pride Day

THE 2004 Pride International Film Festival (PIFF) is an international premiere gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual and HIV/AIDS themed digital film and video festival that will present for the first time in the Philippines never-been-seen shorts, documentaries, animations and features from countries like Lebanon, Bulgaria, United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Italy, Switzerland, Brazil, Canada, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia and the Philippines.

The event will take place at the Dream Theater (Tanghalang Manuel Conde) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Aug. 21-28, 2004.

The films and videos to be premiered in Manila have previously participated in international gay and lesbian film festivals from all over the world. All films and videos that will be screened during PIFF will be its Philippine and Southeast Asian premiere.

The festival will also present for the first time in the Philippines HIV/AIDS educational films such as "Just Like You Imagined," "Nightmare on AIDS Street," "Don't Dance With Death," "He Said, She Said" and "The Monster," all through the support of Scenarios USA, based in New York.

The mission of PIFF is to help advocate HIV/AIDS education on awareness, prevention and care through film screenings and other events before and during the festival. Part of its pre-festival activities include "Pride Programs," an HIV/AIDS video screening in various schools and universities all over Metro Manila. During these events, the festival and its beneficiary Positive Action Foundation Philippines, Inc. (PAFPI) will be working hand-in-hand to help promote the education needed concerning this disease. As of this date, the participating schools include Assumption College Makati, San Agustin Makati and St. Scholastica's College in Manila.

PIFF will also donate a portion of its overall proceeds to PAFPI, to help in their endeavors in fighting for HIV/AIDS prevention and control, and facilitating support responses for the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Philippines. This will be the first time Manila will have such events, especially right after the recently concluded International AIDS Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand.

The festival highlights will include the Philippine premiere of the Swedish hit film "Show Me Love" by Lukas Moodyson as the Opening Film (Aug. 21); Kodak's presentation "I Got it Made (16, The Number That Works)", with specified speakers from the film industry (Aug. 28); Presentation of the Judy Award to Madonna, and the Lifetime Achievement and Distinction Award to Sir Ian McKellen (Aug. 28); and the closing and Philippine premiere of "Mambo Italiano" by Emile Gaudreault (Aug. 28).

Festival tickets are limited, and are now on sale and priced at P150 (regular) and P75 (student). Tickets are available at all Ticketworld outlets including Tower Records, Ayala Center, Music Museum, National Bookstores and Robinson's Galleria and Robinson's Place, Manila) and at the CCP Ticketing and Box Office (832-3704 or 832-1125 loc. 1409). For details, inquiries or sponsorship, please contact the festival organizer, Mr. Severino Planas, at 412-8349 or 0918-925-4603. Email is pridefilmfestival@yahoo.com.

For festival info, please check the festival website at http://piff.filmfestivals.net .

GAY GAB

HOMOSEXUALITY is assuredly no advantage, but it is nothing to be ashamed of, no vice, no degradation; it cannot be classified as an illness; we consider it to be a variation of the sexual function, produced by a certain arrest of sexual development. Many highly respectable individuals of ancient and modern times have been homosexuals, several of the greatest men among them (Plato, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, etc.). It is a great injustice to persecute homosexuality as a crime, and a cruelty, too. If you do not believe me, read the books of Havelock Ellis.

-Sigmund Freud

I believe that those who promote discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or any other grounds are gravely mistaken about the values that make our nation strong. I will continue to move my administration in the direction of compassion, acceptance and understanding.

-Former President Bill Clinton, in an interview with "The Advocate "

Yes, I was a teenage lesbian. And while that may sound like a horror movie to some of you, for me I could subtitle that period of my life, "Adventures in Paradise," because there was one thing that we gay teenagers could do that our straight friends couldn't. I could say, "Hey, Mom, Michelle's coming over to spend the night Friday night, okay?" . . . "Okay, honey!"

-Marilyn Pittman

Borgy on Super! Radio

SUPER!'S very own Ashton Kutcher (Don't you think he has that quality?) is going to Athens to watch the Olympics, thanks to Swatch.

But before he leaves, he's dropping by the K-Lite studios for a Super! Radio session with Tim Yap.

Tune in this Saturday at 11 a.m. for an hour of friendly on-air banter about everything from sex secrets to love in the fast lane.

TIM, you've been punk'd

RADIO ADDICTS. Super!'s Tim Yap with Swatch man Borgy Manotoc

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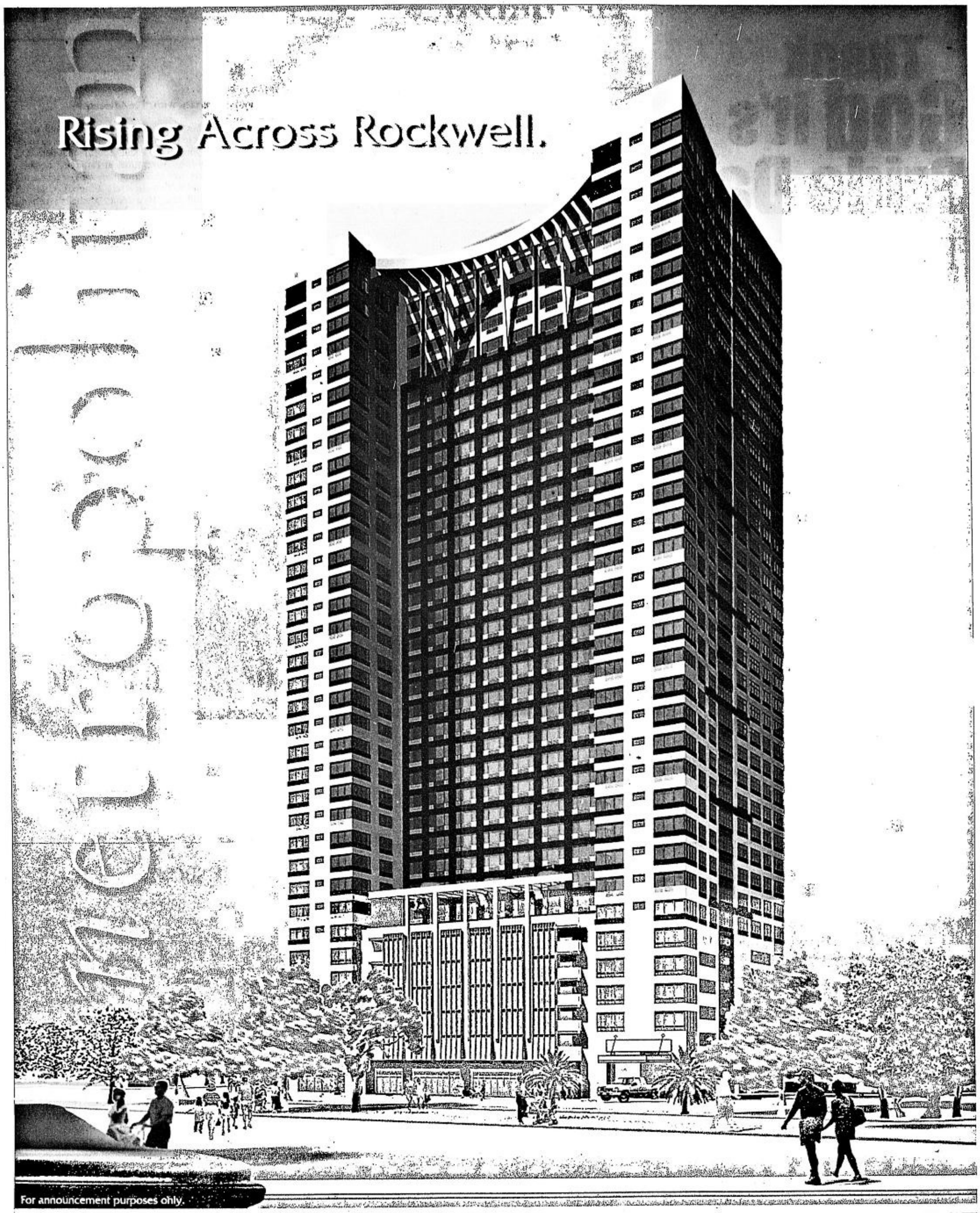

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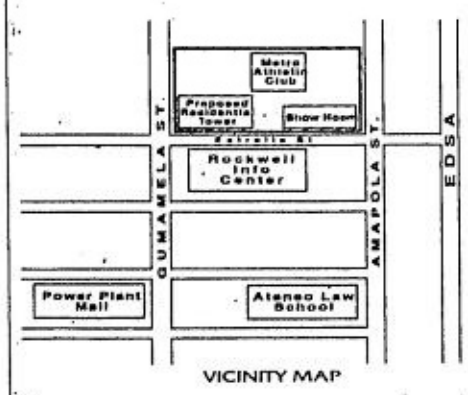

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SATURDAY Super 2

State-of-a Nation Undressed

Photos by Eddie Boy Escudero

French acrobats making love mid-air, Japanese percussionists providing the raw, intense beats for the evening, multiracial models romping the ramp, baring it all - one Filipino brand underneath it all.

Tim Yap

Bench understands the importance of underwear, making a bold statement with "Understatement," held Wednesday night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Weeks before the skin spectacle, tickets were all sold out. In fact, muscle-about-town and Bench endorser Marc Nelson had to beg for more tickets to accommodate his guests.

That night of erotic exposure proved to be a steamy session filled with bronzed bodies and buns of steel. After the prologue of intertwin-

STATE/ G3

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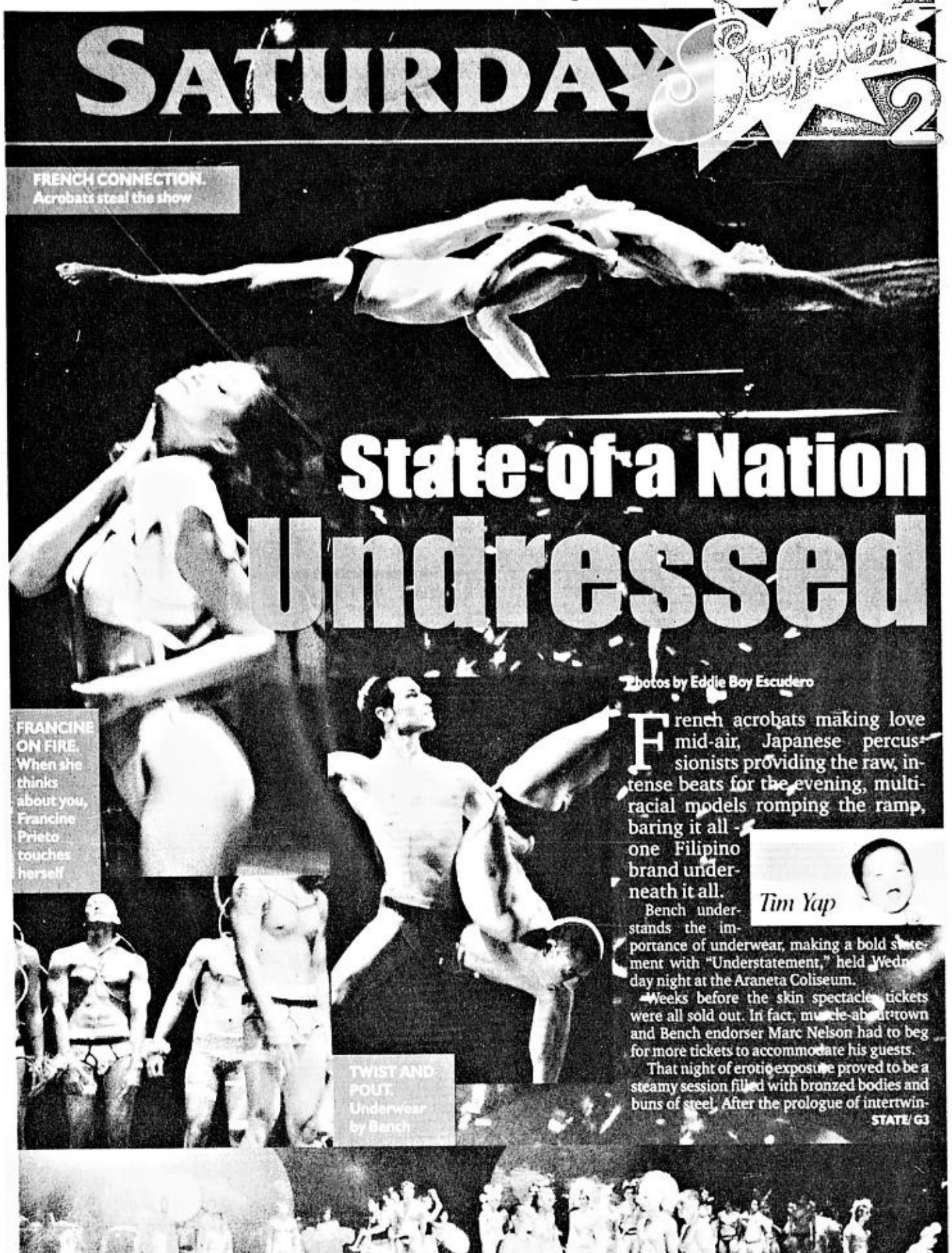

FRENCH CONNECTION. Acrobats steal the show

FRANCINE ON FIRE. When she thinks about you, Francine Prieto touches herself

TWIST AND POUT. Underwear by Bench

State of a Nation Undressed

Photos by Eddie Boy Escudero

French acrobats making love mid-air, Japanese percussionists providing the raw, intense beats for the evening, multiracial models romping the ramp, baring it all – one Filipino brand underneath it all.

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SMOKING MOUNTAINS
Gideon Cauli

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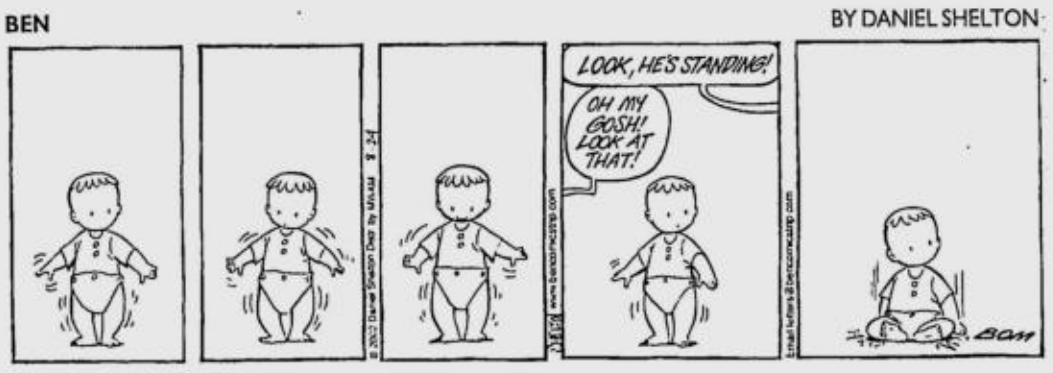

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KIKO MACHINE — BY MANIX ABRERA

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TULDOK — BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're extremely private. You guard your inner feelings and your personal world. You're loyal to family, and you work well with others. You are often the glue in a team or a group of people. You're very sensual and sexy. The year ahead might be one of the best years of your life. Reach out for something!
Birthdate of: Jackie Deshannon, singer; Kim Cattrall, actress; Wilt Chamberlain, basketball star.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): From 1996 to 2003, you reinvented yourself. Now, after securing and settling your home base, you'll have to think about what career you want to pursue for the rest of your life.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Around the year 1999, many changes took place for you. Once again, you will face changes with respect to your daily lifestyle. Plan ahead as much as you can.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): In 1994-95, you felt proud of your achievements. Now you can start to feel proud of what you will achieve with expansion to home, family and real estate.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have given up a lot since 2001. Fortunately, now you're on track, going in a completely different direction. This is reassuring to you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Most of you are giving up things and letting go of relationships, clothing, possessions and jobs. That's because next year, you'll be in a completely new sandbox.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your ruler, Mercury, is retrograde right now. It will stay this way until Sept. 3. This is why you're dealing with so many past issues as well as experiencing delays in communication and transportation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): In the 1980s, you redefined who you were in the world. By 1996, you began to take your power. At this stage in your life, you see very clearly what is working and what is not.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You've felt you were really in the game—a player—since 1999. Your confidence in yourself has increased since then. Continue to work for a career peak, which arrives next year.

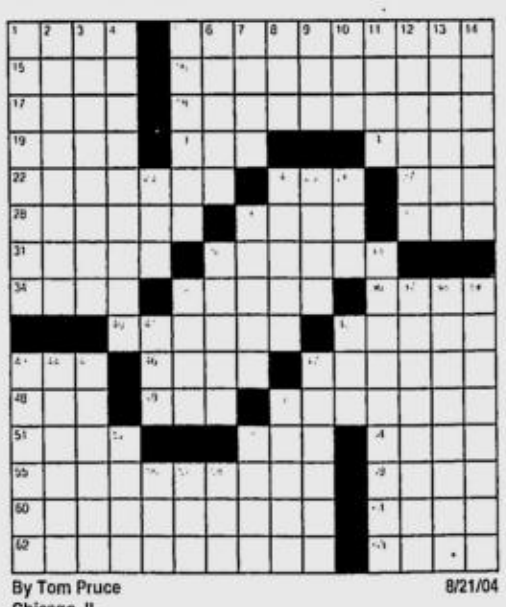
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Many of you have suffered confusion in your closest relationships, especially with siblings. This has caused you to undergo a major personal transformation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Since 1989, you've been working in an entirely new direction. In 2003-04, some partnerships ended. Now it's time for you to go forward with confidence and determination.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): All this hard work will definitely pay off. It's important for you to have faith in yourself. Others certainly do!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Even though your relationships have improved lately, past stuff is coming up now. This is nothing you can't handle. (Remember the challenges of 1991-94?)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

8/21/04

ACROSS
1 Part of FDIC
5 Green region
15 Declare as fact
16 Hidden
17 Masculine
18 Like an asocial person
19 Seasons in Burgundy
20 "__ Girl Friday"
21 Just manages
22 Acts as the go-between
24 Municipal vehicle
27 Golfer Ernie
28 Acted high and mighty
29 Middling
30 Susan of "L.A. Law"
31 Outer opposite
32 Barkin and Degeneres
34 Part of AARP
35 Annoying bits
36 Killer: suff.
40 L'chaim and prosit
42 Chick of jazz
43 Fink
46 Added advantage
47 Letter flourishes
48 Old English letter
49 Three-way intersection
50 Thoroughwort
51 Jaunty
53 Opposing side
54 Eliz. II's son
55 Estrangement
59 Wine region of Italy
60 Fad toy of the '50s
61 Walter __ Army Medical Center
62 Singled-out condition
63 Miami's county

DOWN
1 Showy roselike flower
2 Rounds of applause
3 Gets back old skills
4 Chief executive
5 Hurried
6 Cons
7 Cantor and Lupino
8 One of Bonaparte's marshals
9 __ Angelico
10 Halloween mo.
11 Architect Mies van der __
12 Drew forth
13 Handel opera
14 Having luxuriant locks
23 Sun. oration
24 Charges off
25 Plays for a sucker
26 Male heir
29 Narrow cuts
32 Come to pass
33 Golfer's record
35 Mall event
37 Location of the Isle of Man
38 Thwarted
39 Section of Manhattan
41 Choose (to)
42 100 yrs.
43 Go by again
44 __ Coast
45 Tickle pink
47 Bono and Liston
50 Kicks
52 Phone opener?
53 Commend for meritorious action
56 LIRR destination
57 Appropriate
58 Wine cask

Friday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	S	H	C	O	W		L	E	G	L	E	S	S
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M	O	O	N	L	I	T		S	C	O	N	C	E	S
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A	N	T			E	O	N	S			S	A	L	E
S	C	E	N	E		P	E	T	H	I		V	A	R
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8/21/04

State of a Nation Undressed

From page G1

ing, show-stopping French aerial performers (so flexible were they that all of a sudden I craved for pretzels), a naked man lay face down on the ramp.

It was a full moon, indeed. Two full moons, in fact. Wendell Ramos then stood up in an Adonis stance and continued to bare his heavenly body as the crowd roared.

The battle of the bulges followed. The queen of the fairies, Lucy Torres-Gomez ethereally blessed the wanton warriors before they waged an erotic war.

The Bench men marched to the front lines in y-fronts, t-backs, fully utilizing their weapons of mass distraction. One Bench flag bearer after another teased and heated up the crowd with their sassy sensuality.

R&B royalty Jay R got the most shrieks, so did teen hearthrobs Richard Gutierrez (not in Mulawin costume) and John Pratts. Alfred Vargas and Yul Servo served hot meals on legs while Diether Ocampo's chiseled torso—with abs like he raided Pan de Pugon—elicited hormonal cries from the audience.

Alessandra da Rossi was the hands down warrior princess, with confident strides that blew everyone else off the stage. If there was a female Troy in this battle, then she would have been it. Geneva Cruz is another sizzling plate, coming out onstage—a Hawaiian Tropic goddess meets exotic pole dancer. She grooved, spanked herself and even displayed her sexy flexibilities. You go, girl!

Size does matter, and the creators of this "Spectacular, Spectacular!" striptease (kudos to director Ariel Lozada) know that only too well. Thus the casting of Rob Duat and John Hall (the Trojan horses of the butt-tlefield, with Francine Prieto as the enchanting Helen.

Aside from the showbiz bare-it-alls, they filled it with fashion favorites—Nicolette Bell (with a capital L! as in libido), Bubbles Paraiso, Brent Javier, Luke Jickaine and Gary Dulatas—all of whom have a great following behind (and in front of) them. After all, it is still about the underfashions.

The climax had the audience coming . . . to wild applause, as Bench man Ben Chan humbly took the stage, along with his main muses, Richard and Lucy Gomez as the orgy of the senses came to a peak.

If this were an "Understatement," then what more if they had stated the obvious?

DUDE, where's my crotch!

BOOBTUBE beauty Kristine Hermosa

PUFF daddy Jay R

BUTT, of course, it was a great show!

WORK IT, WARRIOR! Alessandra da Rossi, showstopper

OBLATION IN TUX. Marc Nelson displays his lateral movement

FULL MOON-TY. Wendell Ramos, drill sergeant

RICA Peralejo revealed

FAB abs and more at the Bench "Understatement" Show

OF BALLS AND BONDAGE. Understatement becomes overindulgence

TESSA, is that you?

PEAK PERFORMANCE. Curtain call for Richard and Lucy Gomez with Bench main man Ben Chan

TO DIET FOR. Diether Ocampo's chiseled stance

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5 years after tragedy, Cherry Hills survivors move on, cling to promises

Tanong ng Bayan / A20

Still no Olympic gold: Saan tayo nagkulang?

Judge renders justice through eyes of the heart

By Luige del Puerto

SHAKESPEARE'S King Lear wondered how his friend, Gloucester, could manage in the literal dark: "O, ho, are you there with me? No eyes in your head, nor no money in your purse? Your eyes are in a heavy case, your purse in a light; yet you see how this world goes."

JUDGE/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday, August 22, 2004 ★★ 92 pages / 9 sections / vol. 19 / no. 256 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Spies to check on spies doing gov't lifestyle check

By Armand N. Nocum

NOW it's spy vs spy. Anti-graft agencies implementing the government's lifestyle check program will soon investigate their own investigators.

SPIES/ A10

Witness 'saw murder'

To-die-for fish sanctuary protected by 20 islanders

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Tabaco City

THERE are only 20 of them protecting and preserving the marine fishery reserve on San Miguel Island in Albay's Lagonoy Gulf, but they are determined to pursue what some people consider a "very ambitious project."

"We are ready to die for this fishery reserve," said Nestor Benito, head of the council that manages the reserve area in Barangay Sagurong, Tabaco City.

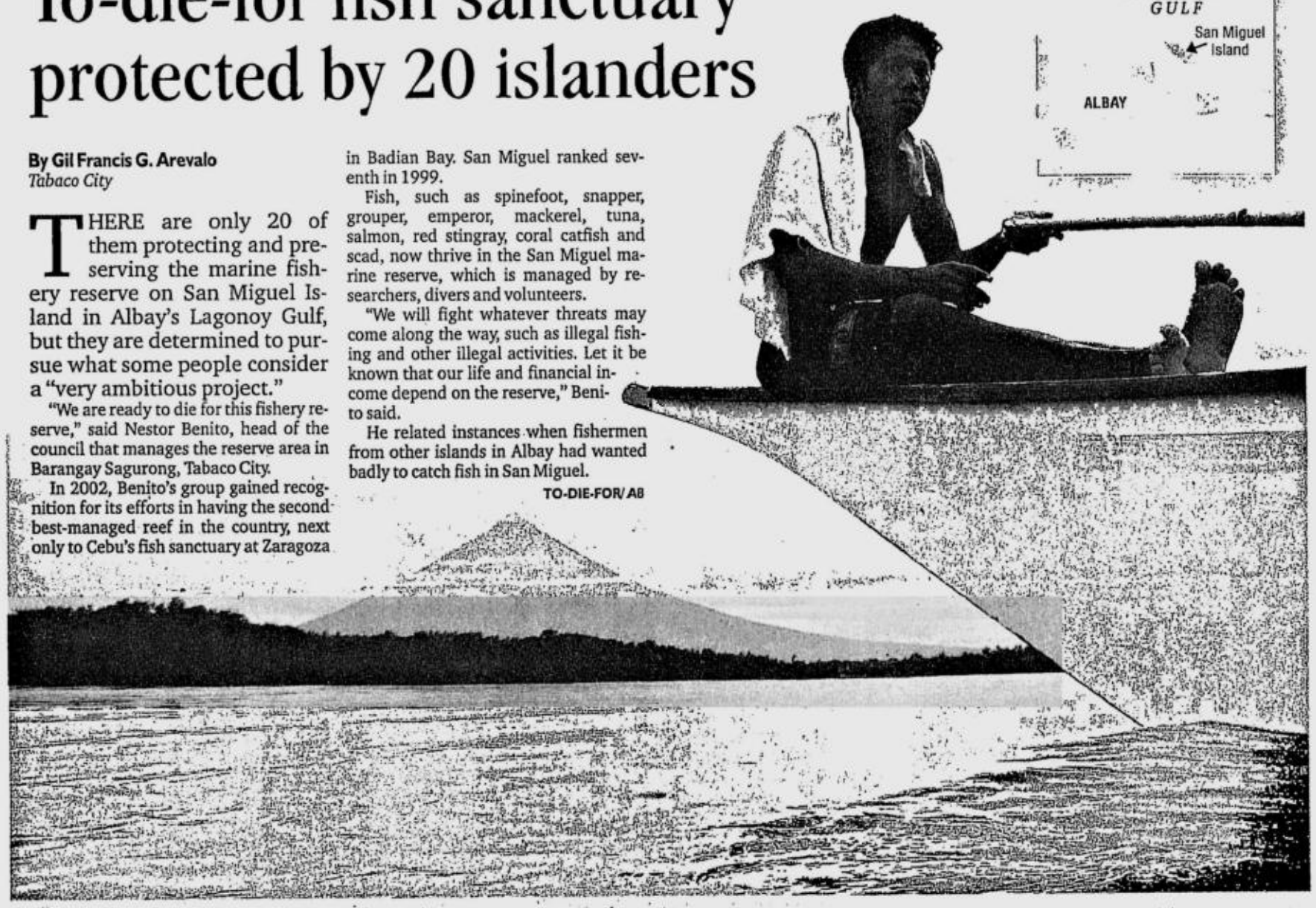
In 2002, Benito's group gained recognition for its efforts in having the second best-managed reef in the country, next only to Cebu's fish sanctuary at Zaragoza in Badian Bay. San Miguel ranked seventh in 1999.

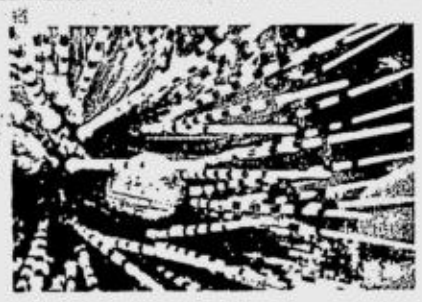
Fish, such as spinefoot, snapper, grouper, emperor, mackerel, tuna, salmon, red stingray, coral catfish and scad, now thrive in the San Miguel marine reserve, which is managed by researchers, divers and volunteers.

"We will fight whatever threats may come along the way, such as illegal fishing and other illegal activities. Let it be known that our life and financial income depend on the reserve," Benito said.

He related instances when fishermen from other islands in Albay had wanted badly to catch fish in San Miguel.

TO-DIE-FOR/ A8





TOMMY SCHULTZ/US PEACE CORPS

THE SERENITY of the fishery reserve on San Miguel Island in Albay's Lagonoy Gulf flows into the majesty of Mayon Volcano in the distance. Adjudged two years ago as the country's second best-managed reef, researchers, divers and residents protect the marine reserve 24 hours a day. Above is a sampling of its rich diversity of fish.

4 other civilians to testify

By Philip C. Tubeza and TJ Burgonio

IT MAY seem the height of irony.

Twenty-one years ago, hardly anyone beyond the circle of Ferdinand Marcos' fiercely loyal followers swallowed his line that Ninoy Aquino had been killed by Rolando Galman.

Now seeking to reopen the so-called "trial of the century," the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) said yesterday that five potential civilian witnesses had called offering to testify on what they knew about the assassination—and one of them said he saw the murder himself.

The witness may prove Marcos was telling the truth when he told the world in 1983 that the assassin was Galman. But regardless of who pulled the trigger, the PAO believes the murder was still a military conspiracy.

PAO chief Persida Rueda-Acosta said the testimony of its potential star witness might even convince the Aquino family to support a reopening of the case.

She said the witness could provide the crucial evidence that would back the claim of the 16 soldiers convicted of murdering Aquino that it was really Galman who had shot the opposition leader at the Manila airport on Aug. 21, 1983 on his return from exile in the United States.

Asked if the "star witness" actually saw the killing, Acosta said: "Yes."

She added: "The witness has personal knowledge."

Acosta also said that the witness' statement "is very material to the [claim] that Galman shot Senator Aquino. This might even convince the Aquino family to

WITNESS/ A10

Presidential chief of staff to be axed; more changes seen

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE NEW presidential chief of staff, Norberto Gonzales, will probably hold the job for only four months as the position will be abolished within the year, according to informed Palace sources.

The sources also said the next wave of Cabinet appointments may involve changes in at least two departments—public works and finance.

They said the officials likely to be retained were Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri and the chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Felicito "Tong" Payumo.

The President last Thursday announced 33 appointments to the Cabinet and other top government agencies and said she would be making more changes next week.

The sources said the functions of the presidential chief of staff would be absorbed by "a strong Presidential Management Staff" headed by Rigoberto Tiglao.

The sources said Tiglao, whom Gonzales replaced as presidential chief of staff in last week's Cabinet revamp, would also assume the post of Executive Secretary before the President delivers her next State of the Nation Address in July 2005.

Tiglao will be replacing newly appointed Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita who reportedly wants to concentrate on recapturing his old congressional seat in Batangas.

While the congressional elections will not be until 2007, the sources said Ermita needed that much time to work on his candidacy as he had to recover the support that he has lost in Batangas.

Ermita was elected to three terms as congressman from 1992 to 2001. He was unable to serve

PRESIDENTIAL/ A10

Young 'once' keep Ninoy memory fresh

By Fe Zamora

TWENTY-ONE years is a long time.

Perhaps so long that yesterday's commemoration of the 21st anniverary of Ninoy Aquino's assassination looked like a reunion of ageing, though not necessarily sickly, anti-Marcos activists.

But it was a warm gathering.

"Twenty-one years is certainly a long time," former President Cory Aquino said in a crisp, lighthearted speech after the Mass officiated by Fr. Catalino Arevalo at Ninoy's gravesite at Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

"You know, I'd never thought I'd outlive Ninoy 21 years," Cory said.

Elfren Cruz, a former street parliamentarian and head of the Presidential Management Staff during the Aquino administration, raised some laughter.

"Why does it seem like we are older? We used to stand here. Now we are all looking for chairs," he said.

But the next generation was also around.

Kris Aquino came in a yellow blouse matched by perfect behavior and escorted by her son, 9-year-old Josh.

Last year's anniversary celebration was marred by strains between some members of the Aquino family—because of Kris' controversial love affair with the much-married former Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez.

This time, Kris came without her rumored current lover, Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid.

Cory's face lit up at the sight of youngest daughter Kris.

"Look at your pants, torn at the knees!" she said.

The former President and her

YOUNG/ A10

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

ENDLESSLY remembered even after 21 years: Former President Cory Aquino with grandsons Jiggy Cruz (right) and Jonty Cruz at Ninoy Aquino's gravesite at the Manila Memorial Park. Ms Aquino distributed a prayer she composed herself during the memorial rites on Saturday. (See page A10)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/08/22/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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FVR places blame for Smokey Mtn on Miriam, too

By TJ Burgonio and Fe Zamora

EX-PRESIDENT Fidel Ramos yesterday dredged up the past and said Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago once upon a time also pushed for the use of reclaimed land as an "enabling component" in government development projects, as was done in the Smokey Mountain project.

Speaking with reporters before flying to Beijing for the three-day Education Forum for Asia, Ramos said that years before she became a senator, Santiago and the other directors of the Public Estates Authority approved the reclamation of thousands of hectares in Manila Bay, "where parts of the reclaimed land are conveyed to developers as payment."

He said "this was similar" to the Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project, where reclaimed land was used to pay for the cost of development.

"As director of [the PEA], in 1991-98, [Santiago] concurred in or recommended approval of the use of reclaimed land as the so-called enabling component in the government's development projects," Ramos said, citing PEA records.

He said these projects included the R-1 (radial road) expressway project, the Orient City reclamation project and the Manila-Cavite Coastal Reclamation and Rehabilitation North Sector Project.

"The sum total of these three examples in regard to the area of reclaimed land is something like 1,700 hectares along Manila Bay," Ramos said, adding:

"The 79 hectares that we provided as the enabling component in the Smokey Mountain project during our time, 1992 to 1998, pales in comparison with what the PEA, including director Miriam Defensor-Santiago, agreed to."

Santiago had assailed the terms and conditions of the government's joint venture agreement with businessman Reghis Romero's R-II Builders to develop the Smokey Mountain garbage dump into a commercial and residential community.

She called for a Senate investigation of the project—under which, she said, then President Ramos authorized the National Housing Authority to pay Romero P3 billion to reclaim land in Manila Bay, and then "gave the reclaimed land" to Romero.

She said Ramos would also have to face investigation.

The contract between the NHA and R-II Builders was terminated last year.

Under the termination agreement, the government would pay the developer P250 million and a 3-hectare land as partial settlement of expenses it had incurred since the project started in 1995.

The P250 million was part of a P480-million fund ordered released by President Macapagal-Arroyo to continue the project, which had been at a standstill since 1998 for lack of funds.

Although a joint venture between the government and the private sector, several government agencies and private banks had "invested" a total of P3.1 billion in the project.

But according to documents obtained by the INQUIRER, R-II Builders' Romero has, aside from cash and real estate, a 15-year virtual monopoly of business on the 79-hectare reclaimed land.

The go-signal to operate a private commercial port in the area was affirmed by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) on Nov. 10, 2003, 70 days after the NHA opened a P250-million escrow account as initial payment to R-II Builders for work in developing the former garbage dump.

FAREWELL TO A FIRST LADY
The family of former first lady Luz Banzon-Magsaysay, the widow of President Ramon Magsaysay, say their final farewells at her interment yesterday at the North Cemetery in Manila. From right, they are son-in-law lawyer Cesar Valenzuela, daughter Mila Valenzuela, son Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and grandson RJ. Mrs. Magsaysay passed away last Tuesday at the age of 89. JOAN BONDOC

Give Cabinet a chance, urge solons

By Cynthia D. Balana and Michael Lim Ubac

AMID strong criticism that President Macapagal-Arroyo had appointed a bunch of "nincompoops" to her Cabinet, an administration solon yesterday defended her choices, saying the new Cabinet members were "scandal-proof and scam-resistant" because of their "integrity."

Rep. Abraham Mitra (Liberal Party, 2nd dist., Palawan) said opposition criticism against the new Cabinet stemmed from the fear they would perform well and deprive critics of the chance to throw brickbats at the President.

"There can only be one reason why the opposition has criticized in hysterical fashion her new appointments and this is out of fear these people would do well and thus deprive them of issues to raise against her," he said.

The opposition has branded the new Cabinet as "shallow," "recycled" and a bunch of "nincompoops," noting that many of those appointed lacked the experience and expertise needed for the positions they were appointed to.

But Mitra said if the new appointees were indeed "nincompoops," then the opposition should celebrate in secret and wait in the sidelines as they stumble in their new jobs.

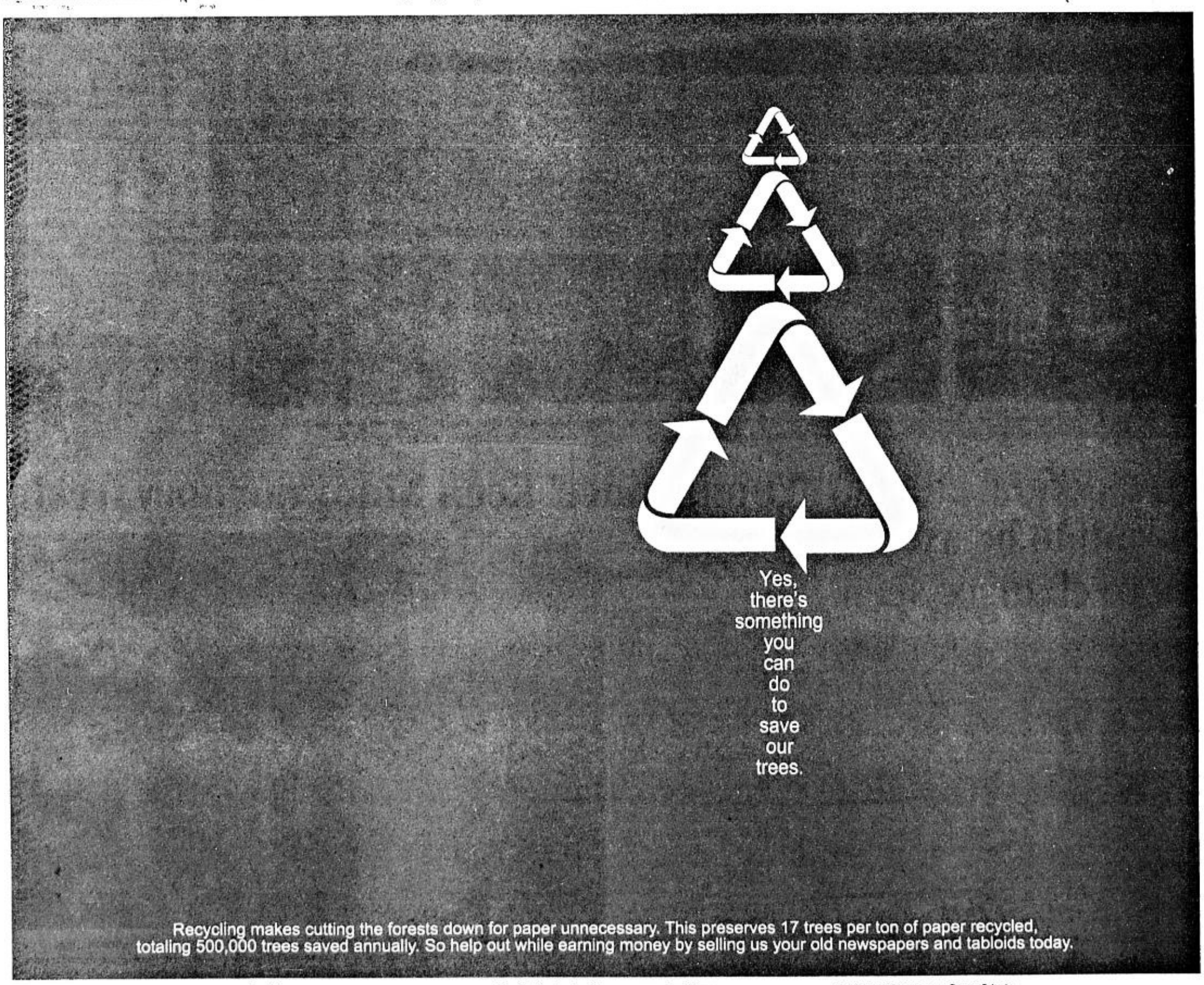
"Perhaps the opposition was expecting a third-rate Cabinet that would implode and disintegrate in the face of the President, without any opposition prodding," he said.

Other administration solons also defended the 33 Cabinet members and urged critics to give them a chance to prove their worth.

Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, 3rd dist., Bukidnon) said the opposition was being biased by adopting a lenient yardstick for the President but a stringent one for her assistants.

Rep. Gener Tulagan (Nationalist People's Coalition, 3rd dist., Pangasinan) said critics should give the Cabinet members time to prove themselves before "putting their necks on the chopping board."

Deputy Majority Leader Rodolfo Albano III (KAMPI, 1st dist., Isabela) said the Cabinet members should be allowed to prove their mettle in helping the government.



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No way, says Joma to coalition

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Alcuin Papa

LUCENA CITY—Stung by Malacañang's reported rejection of a possible coalition, exiled Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair Jose Ma. Sison said the communists were not interested in sharing power with the government.

In an e-mailed message to the INQUIRER, Sison said President Macapagal-Arroyo was wrong to presume that "the revolutionary forces" wanted a share of power in the government by participating in elections.

He said elections were controlled by "the exploiting classes" and gave the illusion of democratic choice while reinforcing the rule of the "big compradors" (in rebel language, agents of foreign exploiters) and landlords.

"Candidates and parties that try to represent the rights and interests of the exploited classes of workers and peasants may be allowed to run for elective office. But in so many ways, the ruling classes do not allow them to get more than a few token elective positions," Sison said.

On Friday, the President declared that her administration was willing to "walk the extra mile" to get the leftist rebels to sign a peace agreement and end the three decades-old communist insurgency.

But she turned down suggestions that the government could enter into a coalition with the communists, saying any coalition partner of the government would have to earn its position through elections.

Luis Jalandoni, the head of the rebel peace negotiating panel, reportedly suggested before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines on Friday that the rebel group was ready to settle for a coalition with the government.

But in a mobile phone interview yesterday, Jalandoni said he was misquoted and his remarks were taken out of context.

Sison said there was no way the revolutionary movement which he said constituted the "people's democratic government" would be dissolved in favor of the government and the ruling system.

He said the people's democratic government consisted of the CPP, the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front. The NDF, the political arm of the CPP, represents the party in the peace talks.

Jalandoni yesterday called on the government to adhere to the agreements it signed in the last round of peace talks or risk a suspension of negotiations altogether.

Speaking at a Sulo Hotel breakfast forum, Jalandoni said the government has to comply with the "obligations" stipulated in two joint statements that were signed in June in Oslo, Norway.

This consisted of three things: convince the US to remove the CPP-NPA and Sison from its list of foreign terrorist organizations; ensure the release of more than 200 political prisoners, and indemnify some 10,000 victims of human rights abuses by the Marcos regime.

Jalandoni warned that if the government "continues with its position of not complying with these obligations, there is the possibility that it would lead to a termination of the peace negotiations."

Sison, the NDF's chief political consultant, postponed the next round of the talks, scheduled this month, to September.

Aglipay unveils plan to restore credibility

INCOMING Philippine National Police chief Edgar Aglipay has unveiled a reform program aimed at restoring the credibility and image of the 115,000-strong police organization.

The program, which centers on the accountability of all policemen, will be implemented during the very brief term of Aglipay as PNP chief. He will reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Sept. 13.

Among the program's priorities which he hopes to set into motion "as soon as possible" is the banishment of "Pulis TABA (Tamad, Abuso, Bastos, Ayaw *madisiplina*)," or rogue and inept police officers.

Aglipay said a mechanism will be put up that would identify inefficient and abusive policemen who would then be exiled to Corregidor Island on Manila Bay or Subic for intensive "technical, moral and cultural" retraining.

A key part of the program is the 24-hour patrol in populated areas such as public markets, schools, shopping malls, major thoroughfares, churches, vehicle terminals and nightspots.

The idea is to have a sufficient number of officers looking after each citizen, from the time he leaves home, goes to school or to market, spends time in a bar, and returns home, Aglipay said.

He said he would require a minimum five-percent crime solution rate in each community.

But Aglipay said the patrol program won't become a reality unless around 90 percent of the police force are deployed in the streets. At present, 85 percent of all policemen are out in the field. The rest does office work. *Christian Esguerra*

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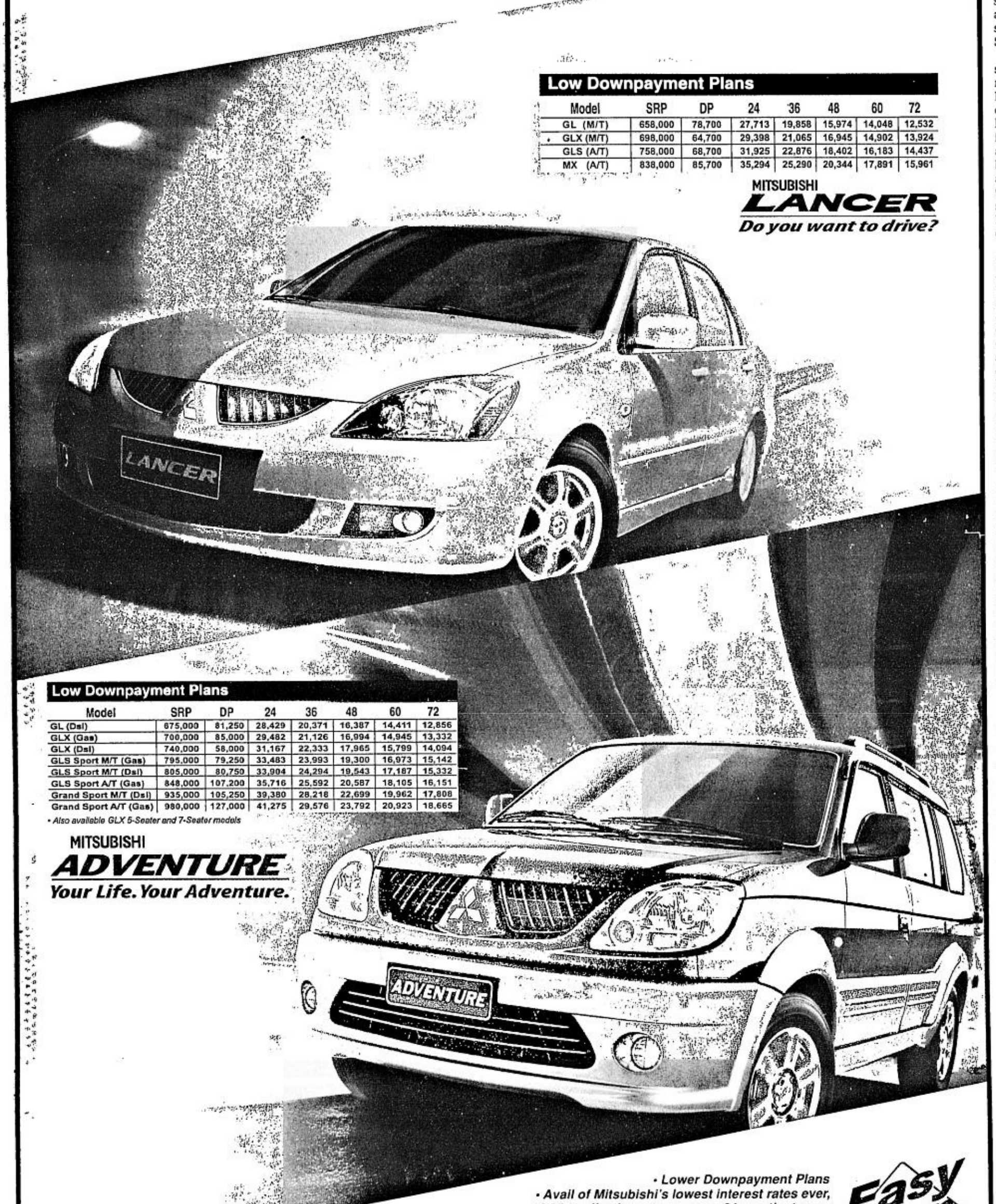

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ZAMBOANGA—The Philippine Navy rescued six crew members of a Malaysian tugboat that went adrift in Philippine waters after the skipper died in an accident, a naval spokeswoman said Saturday.

The tugboat was spotted Thursday night off the Pangutaran group of islands in the Sulu Sea by Filipino fishermen, who alerted the navy. Naval rescue ships arrived at the site, 910 kilometers south of Manila, on Friday, said Lt. Nancy Pastor.

The tugboat was traveling between Sandakan and Semporna in the eastern Malaysian state of Sabah when it developed engine trouble on Aug. 15. While stalled in the water, a cable attached to the barge being pulled by the tugboat snapped, hitting and killing the skipper, Pastor said. The skipper was not identified.

The tugboat and barge will be towed to the Philippine boundary with Malaysia where they will be turned over to Malaysian authorities. A separate naval vessel will bring the body of the skipper to Tawi-Tawi, the Philippines' southernmost province, where his family is waiting, Pastor said. *AP*

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A TEAM from Dayton, Ohio, in the United States will conduct employment interviews with Filipino nurses in the cities of Manila, Cebu and Baguio until Aug. 29.

The five-member team represents the Miami Valley and Good Samaritan hospitals in Dayton, according to Horizon Recruitment Pacific Corp., which is a POEA-licensed recruiter.

Horizon said Good Samaritan had been adjudged one of the top national hospitals in the United States.

Applicants based in Southern and Central Philippines may come for interviews at the Marriott Hotel in Cebu on Aug. 22-24 and Aug. 27-28.

Interviews with applicants based in Northern Luzon are set in Baguio on Aug. 25-27.

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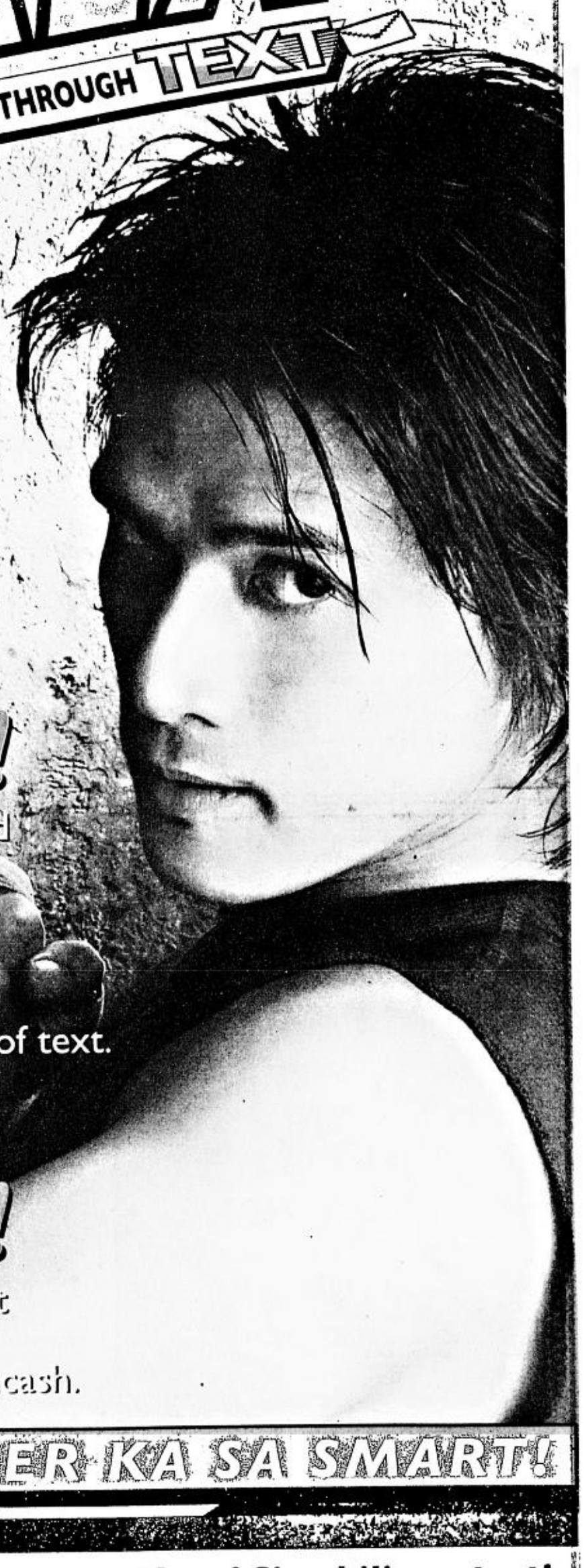

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Pinoys losing jobs in Iraq to Indians, Nepalese due to ban

THE PHILIPPINES will lose out on some 3,000 jobs in Iraq unless it lifts a ban on its nationals working there, a recruitment agency said Saturday amid protests by Filipinos desperate to work in the troubled country.

. A Dubai-based firm that had offered 3,000 jobs to Filipinos had written to the main recruitment agencies in the Manila warning that it would have to fill them elsewhere unless the ban was canceled by the end of the month, said an official at one firm who asked not to be identified.

Dubai-based Prime Projects, which hires foreign labor for Iraq, had initially offered the Philippines 6,000 jobs. It cut this to 3,000 after hiring many Nepalese and Indian workers instead.

"What was left now for the Filipinos are 3,000 (job orders) because the principals hired Indians and Nepalese," the recruitment agency official said.

On Friday, hundreds of Filipinos looking for overseas work held the latest in a series of vocal protests demanding that President Macapagal-Arroyo lift the ban, which was imposed in July after truck driver Angelo de la Cruz was kidnapped in Iraq.

The demonstrators reiterated that they were willing to take their chances in strife-torn Iraq rather than endure unemployment and poverty at home, where wages are low and the unemployment rate is around 14 percent.

"Madam President, please allow us to work in Iraq. This is for our family's future," said a placard held by one protester.

Ms Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the government was monitoring the situation to determine when it would be safe to send workers back to Iraq but the latest assessment found that the Middle Eastern country was still "really dangerous."

Filipinos clamoring to work in Iraq should take into account the government's concern for their safety, said Bunye in a radio interview.

De la Cruz was kidnapped by Iraqi militants who threatened to behead him unless the Philippines withdrew its 51-person humanitarian contingent there.

Ms Arroyo recalled the force and the hostage was freed. But her action was harshly criticized by close allies the United States and Australia, who said she was encouraging kidnappers.

There are as many as 4,000 Filipinos still working in Iraq despite the ban, which labor officials have warned could cost the Philippines as much as $100 million in remittances.

Workers are lured by the promise of monthly wages of up to $1,000, compared to an average wage back home of less than one-tenth that.

There are about eight million Filipinos working overseas, more than a million of them in the volatile Middle East, and their remittances to the country are a major source of foreign exchange. *AFP*

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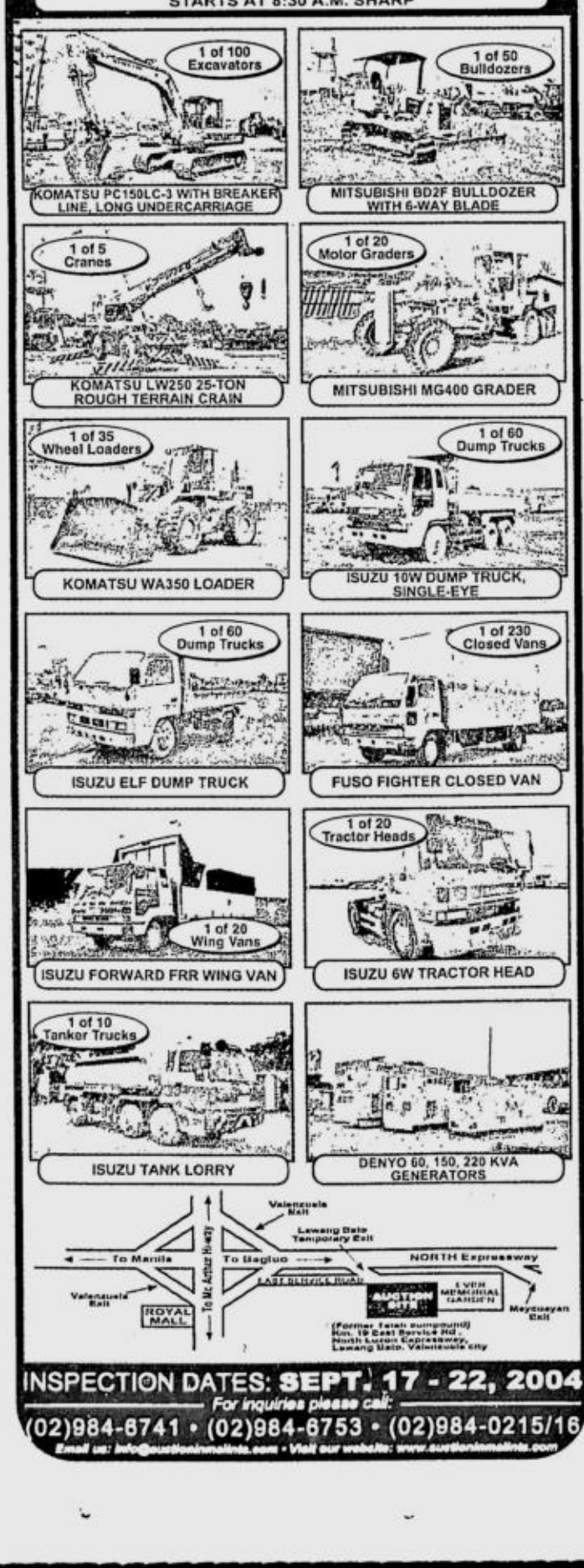

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2 Pinoys to stay in Dominican jail longer

DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs officials took back Friday their earlier announcement that two Filipino seafarers serving time for drug trafficking had been pardoned and ordered released by outgoing Dominican Republic President Hipolito Mejia.

The release of Teodoro Santos Jr. and Efren Caballes was deferred after Mejia decided to leave to his successor, President-elect Leonel Fernandez, the decision of whether or not to pardon the two Filipinos, DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said.

Mejia's change of heart was prompted by a barrage of criticisms over his announced plan to pardon 100 prisoners, including Santos and Caballes, facing drug and other charges, Asuque said.

"The President did not want to add more problems to the end of his mandate due to criticisms against the selection process employed by the commission created for the purpose of drawing up the list of prisoners to be granted pardon," Asuque said.

The DFA had announced on Tuesday that the two seafarers had been pardoned by Mejia and were to be released on Aug. 14 after Ambassador to Cuba Regina Irene Sarmiento had made representations with the Dominican president.

Santos and Caballes, crew members of the MV Super Asia, have served nearly seven years at the La Victoria National Penitentiary in Santo Domingo. *TJ Burgonio*

Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines
CBCP
470 General Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila, Philippines 1002
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OFFICE ON WOMEN

STATEMENT OF THE OFFICE ON WOMEN, CBCP ON THE LETTER TO THE BISHOPS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ON THE COLLABORATION OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE WORLD

Manila, 16 August 2004

The Office on Women of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines welcomes with sincere gratitude the document from the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith of May 31, 2004 entitled **"Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World."** This document reaffirms women's irreplaceable role in the Church and in the world and follows through Pope John Paul II's continuing reflection and teaching on the dignity of women, notably in **Mulieris Dignitatem** of August 15, 1988 and his **"Letter to Women"** of June 29, 1995.

The CBCP Office on Women is one with the Holy See in its unceasing effort to bring to the fore legitimate issues that have marked the struggle of men and women for full humanity and initiate, encourage, promote dialogue to attain a deeper understanding and resolution of these issues. The present Letter is part of such untiring effort. While the document speaks of old problems that persist and new ones that have arisen, it does so not to offend any group but to contribute a theological perspective to the discussion on the relationship between men and women. We hope that a serene dialogue on such an important matter could be enriched by insights provided by the Christian faith.

The CBCP Office on Women is pleased to state that in union with Universal Church, we hold women, whom God has chosen to be the intimate vessel and permanent propagator of human life, as equal to men in human dignity. Women are complementarily equal, not subordinate or adversarial to men. Their natural and lifelong relationship is one of communion, equality and complementariness rather than adverse competition and domination. This relationship is first nurtured and fulfilled in the family, the basic unit of society which accords to men and women specific but complementary roles. The struggle therefore that women must wage against centuries-old abuses, prejudices and biases is a struggle that all people, not just women, must wage. Liberation from these evils and the advancement of women in the home, the workplace, the Church and society must be achieved in the name of all, by all and for all, and not to the detriment of men, children or the family. No greater model, example and inspiration can be found than the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, blessed among all women. To her was granted the fullness of grace and later a unique share in heavenly glory. But she saw it not only as God's gift to her but also to her people Israel, indeed for the whole of humanity.

It is in spirit that we call on all the Filipino faithful to receive the document **"Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World"** as an opportunity for all of us to study what the Christian faith teaches about the relationship between men and women. Let us take this moment as an impetus to work together in bringing down walls of inequality and prejudices that have allowed disparities and conflicts between men and women to continue in our time.

Invoking the help of Almighty God, we pray that we may all be one as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one.

+Most Rev. Emilio Z. Marquez, DD
Apostolate Director, Office on Women
Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines

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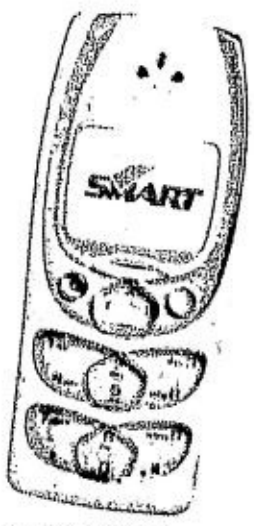

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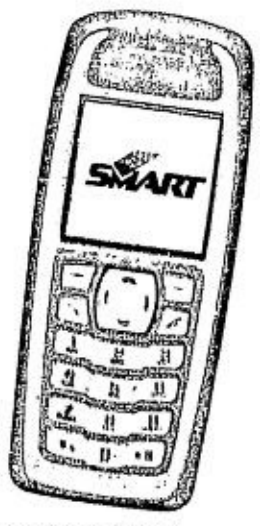

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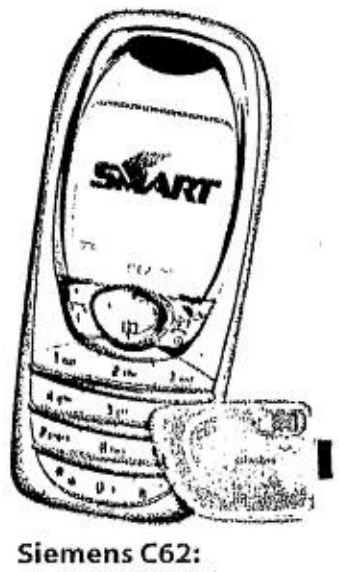

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The filing of applications has been set from September 13, 2004 to November 26, 2004. Applicants with surnames A-H should file their application from Sept. 13-30, 2004. Applicants with surnames I-P should file their application from Oct. 4-29, 2004. Applicants with surnames Q-Z should file their application from Nov. 4-26, 2004.

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From page A1

"We have caught so many illegal fishers. They could not believe that we're monitoring the place 24 hours a day. Though we have only limited gadgets, which could not be considered hi-tech, still we can afford to protect the place," he said.

Benito said his group had only flashlights, raincoats and a few scuba diving suits provided by the Bicol University in Tabaco.

Strategy

Islanders, assisted by researchers and volunteers from the university, have persisted in their work since 1990 to put up the first coastal resources management project (Coremap) in San Miguel, a 30-minute cruise from the city proper. Coremap is an approach to develop and manage coastal ecological habitats and resources, using a strategy that involves co-management by the community and support from the local government.

Regulated fishing

The San Miguel Island Marine Fishery Reserve (SMIMFR), established by virtue of a municipal ordinance passed in 1997, covers 2,250 hectares, including a 1,000-hectare sanctuary, where no fishing is allowed. Fishing in the larger reserve area is regulated.

Philreefs, a consortium of government, academic and private organizations working for the protection, rehabilitation and management of coral reefs, declared the San Miguel marine reserve the second best in 2002. The consortium includes the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute, Investigation of Coral Resources of the Philippines, UP-Visayas, Silliman University and the University of San Carlos.

"We never really expected to win an award for this. Our main objective is just to have the scientifically based Coremap on this very, very beautiful island," said Juan Berces, coordinator of the City Planning and Development Council.

Livelihood

As early as 1996, BU Prof. Victor Soliman, Sagurong residents led by Benito and the SMIMFR council had been coordinating with the council to establish the fishery reserve in San Miguel, Bercer said.

Soliman said earlier studies showed that the community was willing to support the project, but it was only in the late '90s when the people realized the importance of pushing for a resolution that would help preserve the reef, their main source of livelihood.

Financial aid

In 1998, the city government released funds amounting to between P100,000 and P400,000 a year for the reserve's management. "It was relatively affordable to establish the reef with the amount compared to other reefs in the country, for there's already the support of the coastal people, which enabled it to become a success," Soliman said.

Through the years, there have been increases of three to five times in the volume of fish caught using common fishing gear. The fisherfolk also noted the return of such species as siganids, caesonids, groupers and lobsters near the sanctuary, which were very scarce before.

Good coral cover

Soliman said an assessment of the island's coast indicated good coral cover, rich diversity of fish and invertebrates, vast expanse of seagrass and seaweed beds, and invigorating oceanographic features.

Judge renders justice . . .

From page A1

To which the king's blind friend answered: "I see it feelingly."

This is also how Misamis Occidental Judge Nimfa Penaco-Sitaca, recently named outstanding judge for the Gender Justice Awards by the University of the Philippines Center for Women's Studies and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, sees the world.

Sitaca, 56, said as much during the awarding ceremony last Aug. 19 for her and eight other judges at the Discovery Suites in Pasig City.

"To see feelingly, that is how women see the ages..." she said after receiving the award from Chief Justice Hilario Davide. "That is how justice too must see, through the eyes of the heart. Feelingly."

ROY H. DOMILLADA

THE MOST outstanding gender-sensitive judge award goes to the Shakespeare-savvy Ma. Nimfa Penaco-Sitaca of the Regional Trial Court of Oroquita City, Misamis Occidental.

The Gender Justice Awards, launched in December 2003, is the first of its kind in the Philippines.

The board of judges, which included former Justice Leonor I. Luciano, Sheila Coronel of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism and lawyer Lorna Kapunan of the Women's Business Council—recognized Sitaca for her "lyrically written and to the point" decisions, and for her compassion for women victims of violence.

Righteous rage

"Judge Sitaca is capable of righteous rage," wrote the board that screened 57 court decisions spanning five years.

The board cited her decision convicting a 43-year-old farmer of prostituting a 13-year-old girl, whom he paid with money and gifts.

"The court understands the shame and self-loathing [the victim] feels over the experience which will haunt and continue to haunt her, perhaps for the rest of her life," Sitaca wrote.

In ordering a man imprisoned for life for raping his 7-year-old granddaughter, she wrote: "An abundance of words is not required for the court to see what the private complainant went through."

Sitaca, who also teaches remedial English and homily writing to seminarians at the St. Mary's Theologate in Misamis Occidental, said the award was a "respite" from all the sadness that she was dealing with every day.

"There aren't many happy stories in our courts. But ... I am hopeful that the women and children who come to our courts can walk out of the darkness of their lives, and make new beginnings," she said.

Living models

The other Gender Justice awardees were Judges Cliffon U. Ganay and Eloida Patricia R. de Leon-Diaz from Luzon; Edgar G. Garvilles from the Visayas; Jacob T. Malik from Mindanao, and Teodoro A. Bay from the National Capital Region.

Judges Bensaudi Arabani Sr. of the Shari'a Court in Mindanao received a special award and Anthony E. Santos and Edgardo L. de los Santos, novelty awards.

"Remarkably, the judges we all know today ... are living their duties well," Davide said. "They are living models on how judges should conduct themselves and decide cases which call for gender sensitiveness and responsiveness."

According to the chief justice, a judge who performs his functions without bias or prejudice against women is "firm in his conviction that true equality and authentic change in society can never be achieved unless gender sensitivity and responsiveness is honored."

Ganay of Agoo, La Union, was awarded for showing that keeping quiet for six months about a rape actually made sense to a victim.

He began his ruling with a short treatise on fear. "This discussion paves the way for his contention that a woman's fear for her husband's life prevented her from reporting the rape. But it was also for fear of her husband's wrath that she spoke out," the board said.

Ganay wrote: "[The woman's] story was unswerving and plain... The judge of this court was looking for something in her that would give away if she was just acting her part, but there was none. When she cried and wiped away her tears, the defense counsel derided the tears as crocodile tears. The court does not agree. They were real tears."

Plain truth

Diaz of Lucena City made a difficult decision in a difficult case: the rape of an 11-year-old by her father.

The girl had confided the rape to her classmates, who in turn reported it to their teacher. The mother herself sided with the father, and the medical examination proved inconclusive.

But the judge wrote: "It was highly inconceivable for [the girl] to impute as serious a wrongdoing as rape against her own father were it not the plain truth."

According to the board, Diaz showed that delay in reporting a rape does not affect the credibility of a victim's testimony.

She sentenced the accused to death for statutory rape. "But she did so with great sadness and a desire to understand how such horrible abuse could take place in a child's own home," the board said.

Diaz wrote in her decision: "It is disheartening to know that there are times when, for reasons beyond our control, incidents of abuse happen in our very homes. More often we ask ourselves why and find no reasonable answer... It is quite disappointing to realize that the home we expect to be the safest place there is for our young becomes the most dangerous place to be. It seems no longer the haven of love."

Pathetic defense

Malik of Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte, handled a case of a man who killed his wife with a bolo.

The husband said the attack was justified because he supposedly caught his wife having sex with another man. The blows were supposedly meant for the man, but they landed on the wife.

But Malik said that the accused "concocted a pathetic defense," and that there were no indications of another man in the house.

The board cited the judge for showing "a clarity of thought, a keen knowledge of the law and of precedents, and also an appreciation of the physical evidence and the testimonies of witnesses."

In another case, Malik sentenced a father to death for raping his 12-year-old daughter. He wrote: "It is a well-entrenched jurisprudential rule that when a woman (a girl of tender age in this case) testifies that she has been raped by her own father, she says all that is needed to signify that the crime has been committed. Hence, the court gives great weight to [her] testimony.

As Filipinos sleep, three new barangays are born

By Blanche S. Rivera

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Every time Filipinos wake up to a new day, there are 5,800 more of them, the equivalent of three new barangays.

Each time a new national budget is approved every two years, 4.2 million more people are counting on getting something from it.

By the time President Macapagal-Arroyo finishes her term in 2010, another 12.6 million Filipinos will have been added to the 84.2 million today, the equivalent of the population of a new Metro Manila.

This is how population experts who spoke at a population workshop here have reckoned the speed by which the country's population is growing, posing a heavier burden on government.

With four babies being born every minute, the government is racing against time to be able to provide the social services required by its fast-growing constituency, said economist Mario Taguiwalo, a former health undersecretary.

Taguiwalo said that an increasing proportion of the country's population relies on the government for health, education and security because they cannot afford private services.

The country's dependency ratio shows that one Filipino is providing for four others, a burden that many poor people are unable to take up and eventually pass on to the government.

He said that government expenditures have remained stagnant at 0.7 percent from 1995 to 1999, which means that government is spending less than P10,000 for the social service requirements of every Filipino.

"Will our families have enough means to feed their children and provide for their development as productive adults?" Taguiwalo said.

"Will our social system for delivering health, nutrition and education become more efficient faster than the additional children we will need to serve?" he asked.

Population expert Aurora Perez, a former executive director of the Population Institute, said the population growth rate of 2.36 percent was depriving the country of sufficient time to develop its resources and meet the needs of its people.

Perez, who is now country coordinator of Futures Group International, said only an immediate and effective population management program would help the government cope with the demand for services.

"The government should go into a public-private partnership program if it wants to address the population's needs," Perez said.

Taguiwalo said the government has been failing low-income families by not helping them to control their size, which drives them into poverty.

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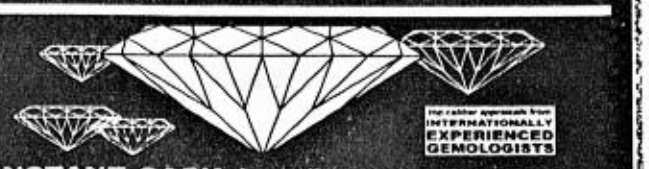

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Young 'once' keep Ninoy memory fresh

From page A1

daughter did not embrace, but they stood close to each other.

Lovers have parted

Kris has parted from her former mayor-lover after a public, televised fight that gripped the country for days in September last year.

A doting mother, Cory stood by Kris during the days of her daughter's anguish.

But yesterday, all that seemed like a thing of the past.

Joey Lina as tenor

Cecile Alvarez, a cancer survivor, heartily sang "The Impossible Dream." But she was drowned out by former Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina's full tenor. Joey wore a yellow T-shirt with Ninoy's face printed on it.

Roberto Sarreal, Ninoy's former classmate in Latin at the Ateneo High School, came for the 21st straight year. "I have never missed a year," Sarreal told the INQUIRER.

Youngest of the lot?

A trim Sen. Alfredo Lim sat on a white monobloc chair. Makati Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin seemed to prove he was younger than all by standing during the entire Mass.

Former Ambassador Howard Dee, former Public Works Secretary Ping de Jesus, former Sen. Heherson Alvarez, Senate President Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose de Venecia sat on chairs which someone had brought out from a nearby mausoleum.

The martyr's son, Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino, who came late, had to content himself with standing under a tree.

Ninoy' sister, Maur, was there, but younger sister former senator Tessie

THE NINOY generation is getting on in years. Enter the new generation embodied by his youngest daughter, Kris Aquino, at the Manila Memorial Park on Saturday. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Aquino-Oreta was noticeably absent. Makati Rep. Butz Aquino was at the memorial rites at the airport now named after his brother.

As expected, the color yellow dominated the day, and Kris overdid it, as usual. She also wore a yellow wristwatch.

GMA a no-show

President Macapagal-Arroyo was a no-show in the national holiday she had declared in honor of Ninoy.

She also canceled her other activity for the day—the 11:30 p.m. Mass to mark the anniversary of the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

"Sore eyes," was the explanation given by Press Secretary and presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye for the cancellation of the President's scheduled engagements.

Instead, Ms Arroyo sent Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and presidential protocol chief Linglingay Lacanlale to represent her at the Manila Memorial Park commemoration.

Quezon Service Cross

Represented by Romulo, Ms Arroyo posthumously conferred on Ninoy the "Quezon Service Cross" award, the highest honor bestowed by the Republic on any individual. Lacanlale read the citation.

Established in 1946 through Joint Resolution No. 4 of Congress, the award recognizes "exemplary service to the nation, in such a manner and such a degree as to add great prestige to the Republic of the Philippines, as to contribute to the lasting benefit of its people."

The award was named after Manuel L. Quezon, president of the Commonwealth, for championing the cause of Philippine independence during the American colonial era.

The award is bestowed by the President only with the concurrence of both chambers of Congress.

For Ninoy, the Senate and the House passed resolutions extolling his devotion to freedom and democracy, his selflessness, valor and dedication to the Filipino people. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Prayer for a happy death

(Below is the prayer distributed during the commemoration of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.'s 21st death anniversary yesterday at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque.)

By Corazon C. Aquino

Almighty God, most merciful Father
You alone know the time
You alone know the hour
You alone know the moment
When I shall breathe my last
So remind me each day, most loving Father
To be the best that I can be
To be humble, to be kind,
To be patient, to be true,
To embrace what is good,
To reject what is evil,
To adore only You.
When that final moment does come
Let not my loved ones grieve for long
Let them comfort each other
And let them know how much happiness
They brought into my life.
Let them pray for me,
As I will continue to pray for them,
Hoping that they will always pray for each other.
Let them know that they made possible
Whatever good I offered to our world.
And let them realize that our separation
Is just a short while
As we prepare for our reunion in eternity.
Our Father in heaven,
You alone are my hope.
You alone are my salvation
Thank You for Your unconditional love. Amen.

Witness 'saw murder' of Ninoy

From page A1

support a reopening of the case."

"It seems that their (the Aquinos') eyes are already closed (to a review) but I think Tita Cory has said that it is OK for the soldiers to approach PAO," she added.

Marcos had claimed after the assassination of his top political foe that Galman—who was gunned down by soldiers—had been hired by the communists to kill Aquino.

The convicted soldiers have given sworn statements to the PAO in a bid to reopen the case against them.

Consistent

One of the soldiers, M/Sgt. Pablo Martinez, claimed that a close relative of former President Corazon Aquino had masterminded the killing of her husband.

While Martinez's fellow convicts have not claimed knowledge about the alleged participation of Ms Aquino's relative in the conspiracy, two of them corroborated Martinez's narration of the events that led to Ninoy's shooting.

"I also find that Martinez is consistent in his statements and his claims about the trajectory of the bullet that killed Aquino, which would show that it came from Galman's gun," Acosta said.

Extraditing Ochoco, Valerio

This would contradict the accepted version that Aquino was shot from behind by one of his five military escorts as he was descending the service stairway from the China Airlines plane that brought him home after more than seven years in exile in the US.

Acosta said the Philippines could ask the American government to extradite former Air Force Col. Romeo Ochoco and Air Force Capt. Felipe Valerio if charges were eventually filed against them.

Ochoco and Valerio, who allegedly figured prominently in the plot, are reportedly now living in the United States.

Acosta said she respected those who had doubts about a possible reopening of the case but she added that the PAO was only doing its job.

"I respect their opinion. They are entitled to their views, but we lawyers are guided by evidence," she said.

"This is a search for truth and justice. I think we won't have justice in this case until the mastermind is identified and brought to justice," she added.

PAO to represent convicts

Acosta said the 15 convicts approached PAO after they read about its success in convincing the Supreme Court to reopen the cases of two death convicts.

"This will be the first time that they will be presented by counsel of their own choice," Acosta said.

She said their previous lawyer, Rodolfo Jimenez, was provided by the late Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio, one of the 16 military men convicted of the Aquino-Galman murder but who has since died.

Acosta said the convicts claimed that some of them wanted to give statements during their trial but Jimenez allegedly prevented them from doing so.

Butz's doubts

But at least one senior member of the Aquino family doubts that a new affidavit from Martinez would bring the nation closer to unmasking the mastermind.

Unless Martinez's statement was corroborated by others, a reinvestigation of the double murder might not prosper, Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino said yesterday.

"I'm not optimistic that something will come out of it, especially [because] the principals involved in this crime are either in the other life, or are not in the country," said the younger brother of the slain senator.

"When it comes to that, it's really difficult to prove ... to get any hard evidence," Butz added in an interview with reporters. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Spies to check ...

From page A1

Apparently, some of their men reportedly cut deals with officials who had flunked the lifestyle check.

In a recent interview, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said that aside from putting suspected corrupt officials under 24-hour surveillance, they would also start tailing their own graft investigators.

"As soon as we have 200 graft investigators, we will form a counter-intelligence unit to spy on our men," he said, admitting that some of his men had abused their powers.

He has already suspended, even fired some of them, including a senior prosecutor.

Marcelo said they would also restrict the movements of former employees, some of whom were now working as defense counsels for government officials being investigated for graft.

Surveillance cameras had been installed in key areas of the Ombudsman's head office in Quezon City. Visitors are also issued color-coded ID cards to monitor their movements and the people they see.

Too many investigators

Other agencies under the Lifestyle Check Coalition had been accused of graft—mostly by people they were investigating.

Malacañang's Transparency Group had been accused of using the lifestyle check to boost the candidacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the last elections and of protecting top Cabinet members at the expense of "small fries."

Critics said the office had slowed down its operations after the elections. Others questioned it for conducting so many investigations, yet only a handful actually made it as official complaints.

The Transparency Group's head Nicasio A. Conti had also come under fire for allegedly accepting millions of pesos from a top customs official.

Conti denied this, saying he had already filed charges against the official who accused him of extortion.

No contact policy

The Department of Finance's Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS) and its investigators, most of whom were former operatives of the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Group (EIIB), had also come under fire.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan, who heads RIPS, admitted there were incidences of abuse committed by some of his 30 investigators. He said he had already brought in key people from the Philippine National Police to help "reformat" the anti-graft unit.

He was also putting in measures to monitor the movement of his people, including limiting the dissemination of information on people under investigation with the creation of "need-to-know cells."

Bonoan also issued guidelines on a "no contact" policy between investigators and the people they were investigating, to prevent any hint of bribery or camaraderie.

"I also advised them to be courteous to people they were investigating so they will not be accused of harassment," he said.

There have been little or no complaints received on the following agencies: Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, the Commission on Audit and the Civil Service Commission.

In Maguindanao, a couple, both ranking government officials, said they would contest Malacañang's order dismissing them from the service for allegedly failing the government's lifestyle check.

"Since it is not yet final and executory, we can still make our appeal by filing a motion for reconsideration," said Central Mindanao agriculture director Sumail Sekak.

Sumail and his wife, Kunesa, director of the social welfare regional office in the Autonomous Region, were dismissed after the PAGC reportedly found out they had misdeclared some properties in their statement of assets and liabilities.

With a report from Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Presidential chief of staff to be axed ...

From page A1

out his last term as he was appointed presidential adviser on the peace process in January 2001 by the then newly installed President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The sources said Tiglao's appointment as PMS head was a kind of preparation for his becoming the new Executive Secretary. The sources said the PMS appointment was not a demotion for Tiglao.

Not a demotion

"The PMS has a staff of 600 and the chief of staff has 40. So how can that be a demotion?" one source said.

The source said the PMS would become a "very strong" agency under Tiglao, taking charge of policymaking and monitoring the implementation of the President's 10-point program of government.

A source said Gonzales knew that his job as presidential chief of staff was only temporary.

"I think he will be appointed ambassador to Malaysia," the source said.

The source said the President did not want Gonzales to continue as National Security Adviser because he was "outspoken" and tended to contradict her policies.

"She said she does not want a Cabinet official who disagrees with her policy and direction," the source said.

2 'comedians'

A Palace official said that Gonzales was one of the "two comedians" in the Angelo de la Cruz hostage crisis.

It was the other "comedian," Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, who reportedly gave the President the wrong information that De la Cruz had been released by his Iraqi captors in a hotel in Baghdad days before he was actually freed.

A source said the next batch of appointees to be announced next week might include replacements for Acting Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez and Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, who is retiring within the year.

Many of the changes are likely to involve various government agencies.

Payumo doing well

The source said Ms Arroyo is likely to retain Payumo as SBMA chair because "he is doing well." But the President wants to appoint a separate administrator or CEO which she has asked the search committee to fill.

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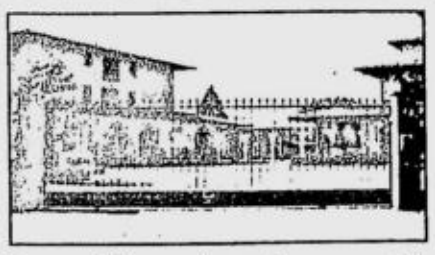

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Educators: Students have blurred image of Ninoy

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE LATE Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. has been in textbooks for the last 17 years but some educators fear the post-People Power generation still does not know much about him.

These educators, who revised the school curriculum in 1987 to include the fall of the Marcos dictatorship—and Ninoy's role in it—feel that future generations should also learn about Ninoy's life, and not just about his death.

"Our students have a blurred image of Ninoy," said Rosalie Masilang, an education program specialist for secondary education and a part of the Department of Education's high school curriculum development division.

In elementary and high school history textbooks revised in 1987, a chapter deals with the 1986 People Power revolt, which ended the Marcos regime.

History textbooks used by high school freshmen have a chapter on "The Return of Democracy." It starts with Ninoy's incarceration during martial law, his exile to the United States, and his assassination upon his return on Aug. 21, 1983.

Death destroyed Marcos

It says Ninoy's death shattered the Marcos regime's credibility.

The textbook shows a photograph of a rally and a huge banner bearing Ninoy's face.

In Grade 4 geography classes, Ninoy's name is included among the heroes from Region 3. People Power and Ninoy are discussed in Grade 5 history classes.

"In the curriculum, we give importance to Ninoy's participation in defending democracy in the Philippines," Masilang said.

Reason for Edsa

"He would always be (discussed) whenever there's a discussion of (the) Edsa revolt. Wasn't he the reason why Edsa took place?" said Elizabeth Escaño, an education program specialist for elementary education.

But there are no commemorative programs in schools to mark Ninoy's death anniversary.

Before this year, it was not even regarded as a holiday.

Masilang said the private sector should advocate the teaching of Ninoy's life since the Department of Education was limited in what it could do.

Escaño suggested the use of comic books that would appeal to grade schoolers.

"(At least) our Grade 1 students know that other than (Jose) Rizal we have other heroes," she said.

Masilang said teaching more about Ninoy's life would inspire students to emulate him. She said lives of other national heroes were discussed extensively.

Scrap some elections, urges Abalos

By Martin P. Marfil

FINALLY, someone noticed.

"We have so many elections," Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos said yesterday.

The country just had the May 2004 elections. Next will come—if it is not postponed—the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in November, followed by the barangay elections in October 2005, the Sangguniang Kabataan elections in 2006 and the local elections in 2007.

"Let us give ourselves a breather," Abalos said, noting that the country holds elections almost yearly.

If it were up to him, the Comelec chair said he would do away with the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Abalos made the remarks when he was asked to comment on the coming barangay elections, which some lawmakers reportedly want postponed.

"Why don't we scrap (not just postpone) the barangay elections? I'm not saying that the barangay leaders should be ousted from their posts... They should just be appointed," Abalos said.

He said barangay elections were usually bloodier than the other elections because they pit brother against brother or cousin against other relatives since most extended families live in the same barangay.

Asked about his views regarding the Sangguniang Kabataan elections, Abalos said this should also be scrapped.

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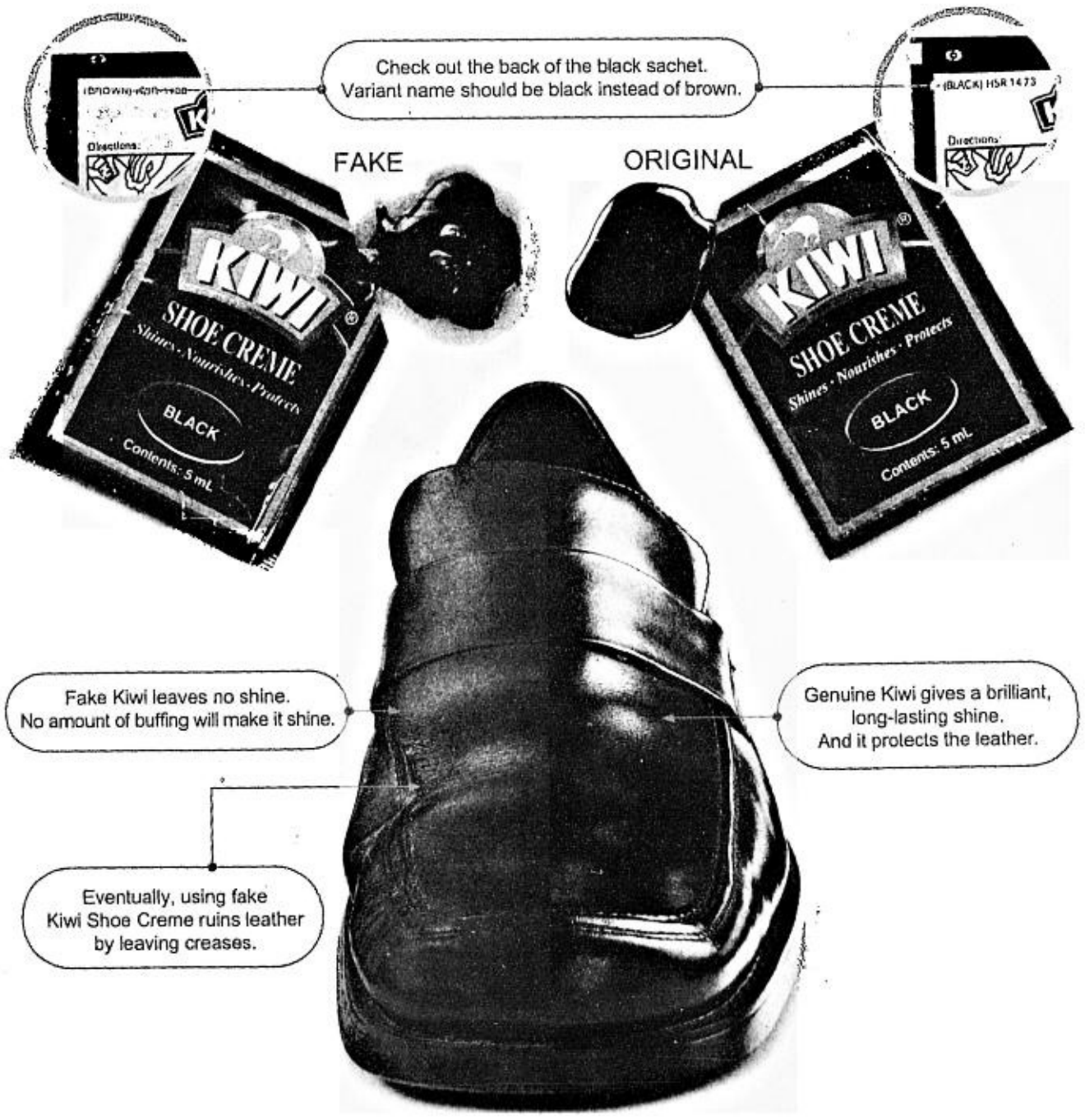

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Sadr men in control of shrine

NAJAF, Iraq—Fighters loyal to rebel Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr were firmly in control of Najaf's Imam Ali mosque on Saturday, giving the lie to government claims that police had taken control of the shrine.

Militiamen brandished weapons defiantly and mocked Iraq's interim government around the mosque, at the center of a confrontation with US forces that has helped drive oil prices to record highs and presented the government with is biggest crisis yet.

Holding out hope for a peaceful resolution, one of Sadr's top aides said the rebel leader wanted to hand over Iraq's holiest Shiite shrine to Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the country's most influential Shiite cleric, and that talks on the mosque's future were under way.

"We would like to hand over the shrine to the religious establishment which has the right to control it," Sheikh Ahmad al-Sheibani told reporters. "It is only natural that Ayatollah Sistani should accept it."

Sistani, who usually lives in Najaf, is now in Britain recovering from surgery.

But Sadr's aide later added that Sadr's militia would continue to guard the mosque after any handover, precisely the outcome that Iraq's interim government has vowed to prevent.

"The Mehdi Army will continue to defend the shrine and Najaf, all of Najaf because it is a holy city," Sheibani told reporters. "The Americans will not be allowed into Najaf."

Sheibani said no time had been set for a handover of the mosque and called on the interim government of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, which has threatened to storm the mosque, to pursue a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Hundreds of young men inside the shrine chanted slogans vilifying Allawi, who has called on them to lay down their weapons and leave the golden-domed shrine.

"We are winning, we will win over Iyad Allawi and the traitors collaborating with the Americans," they chanted.

Some held banners that said: "Where is the bullet that will grant me martyrdom?"

Sheibani said Sadr had agreed to hand over the keys to the shrine to Sistani's aides, but did not say when. Such a handover would be largely symbolic if Sadr's fighters remained in place in and around the mosque, where they have been fighting off efforts by US and Iraqi government forces to dislodge them.

The sound of explosions echoed across the holy city early on Saturday, though their causes was not clear. The blasts followed a relatively quiet night, the calm broken only sporadically by US aircraft flying overhead.

Confusion over who controlled the mosque swirled on Friday as Sadr's rebellion, in which hundreds have died, entered its third week. *Reuters*

A MEMBER of the Iraqi Shiite Mehdi Army militia awaits orders on a street corner in Najaf's old town Aug. 21. Rebel Shiite fighters were firmly in control of the Imam Ali mosque in the Iraqi city of Najaf, but the whereabouts of their leader, the fiery cleric Moqtada Sadr, were unknown. REUTERS

Japan may make arms with US

TOKYO—Japan might relax a decades-old ban on arms exports so it can make weapons jointly with its main security ally, the United States, a Japanese newspaper said on Saturday.

Japan, whose constitution rules out having armed forces or ever going to war, is undertaking a sweeping reassessment of its defense strategy, inspired partly by North Korea's test firing of a missile over the country in 1998.

The missile test shocked Japan and prompted it to start joint research on new antimissile technology with the United States—which wants Japan to play a bigger role in international affairs.

"Clearing the way for joint development and production of weapons by Japan and the United States is possible," the newspaper quoted a senior foreign ministry official as saying.

The Asahi Shimbun said the government might also allow joint development and production of weapons with other countries, if the United States was involved and the venture was not of a kind that would promote international conflict.

The government said in a defense white paper last month that the embargo on exports might have to end if Japan wanted to move the missile shield project forward to production. *Reuters*

Spending for US November elections already over $1 billion

WASHINGTON—There's still more than two months to go before Election Day and despite new campaign finance laws money is being spent at a dizzying pace.

The spending tops mid-election year levels in 2002 and 2000, when national party committees could still raise corporate, union and unlimited donations known as soft money.

The presidential and congressional candidates and the national party committees that support them have already laid out more than $1 billion for the 2004 election cycle.

President Bush alone devoted $209 million to his reelection effort through July, a campaign finance report he filed Friday shows.

His Democratic rival, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, reported to the Federal Election Commission that he spent $36.4 million in July, on top of nearly $150 million through June.

In addition, Senate and House candidates spent $487 million from January 2003 through last June, and national party committees burned through more than $400 million, their reports covering the 18-month period show.

Under a law that took effect starting with this election cycle, the biggest contribution party committees can collect is $25,000 from an individual—limited donations known as hard money—and corporate and union contributions are banned. Individuals can give up to $2,000 to a presidential or congressional candidate under the law, which doubled that limit. *AP*

Scientists to explore China 'lake monsters'

BEIJING—Chinese scientists will launch an expedition next month to search for fabled "lake monsters" in northwest China's Xinjiang region, state media said Saturday.

For hundreds of years there have been rumors in Xinjiang's Altay Prefecture that mysterious monsters live in the prefecture's Kanasi Lake, devouring livestock, the Xinhua news agency said.

As horses, cattle or sheep went missing near the lake every year, the legend grew.

In 1985, teachers and students from the Xinjiang University Department of Biology discovered that dozens of huge red fish, each 10 to 15 meters long and weighing more than four tons, lived in the lake.

A large-scale scientific exploration on the "lake monsters" of Kanasi, the deepest alpine lake in China, was made in 1987.

As a result of the two-year exploration, scientists discovered a school of some 30 to 40 big fish, each three to four meters long.

They concluded that the fish, a species of Taimen—a mighty salmonid that grows to monstrous proportions—were the "monsters" making mischief in the lake, Xinhua said.

But researchers still do not know how many Taimen are living in the lake or how long they have been there, how big the largest one is and whether the livestock that have gone missing for hundreds of years were really devoured by the fish. *AFP*

Bird flu seen getting entrenched in parts of SE Asia

De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde
School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPaCE)
announces the offering of the following courses:

Curriculum Design and Development
A course under the Training Development and Management Program, offered in partnership with the Philippine Society for Training and Development (PSTD), this course provides participants the necessary tools in conducting analysis from the TNA and writes training objectives as well as develops content with the abilities/ competencies to be learned by prospectives learners. Selection of appropriate instructional strategy and method is covered in this course and the development of instructional materials and session guides for effective delivery of the training program.
Schedule: Saturdays, from Sept. 11-Oct. 16, 2004, 12:30-7:30pm
Course fee: Php 6,500.00/participant for PSTD members
Php 7,000.00/participant for non-members

Corporate Events Management
Schedule: Saturdays, from Sept. 11-18, 2004, 12:30-7:30pm
Course fee: Php 4,000.00/participant inclusive of handouts

Exposition, Trade Show
Schedule: Saturdays, from Oct. 2-9, 2004, 12:30-7:30pm
Course fee: Php 4,000.00/participant inclusive of handouts

Corporate Events Management and Exposition, Trade Show are elective courses under the Professional Events Management Program

Strategic HR Training and Development
A course under the Organizational Development Program, this course enables HR managers/practitioners to design, develop, and evaluate an organization's HR plan, which is aligned to its Vision-Mission.
Schedule: Saturdays, from Sept. 11-Oct. 16, 2004, 12:30-7:30pm
Course fee: Php 6,500.00/participant inclusive of handouts

Overview of the Real Estate Industry Markets and Practice
A course under the Real Estate Management Program, offered in partnership with the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations (CREBA).
Topics to be covered:
Overview of the Real Estate Industry (Local and Global) • Real Estate Trends and Directions • Key Housing Agencies • Real Estate Brokerage and Marketing • Real Estate Economics • International Marketing • Real Estate Profession and Business • Licensing and Code of Ethics • Consulting on Distressed Properties • Information Technology in the Real Estate Development • Feng Shui and Geomancy • Real Estate Frauds.
Schedule: Saturdays, from Sept. 11-Oct. 16, 2004, 12:30-7:30pm
Course fee: Php 6,500.00/participant for CREBA members
Php 7,500.00/participant for non-members

Market Research and Planning
A course under the Marketing Communications Management Program, offered in partnership with the Philippine Association of National Advertisers Foundation (PANAF), this course provides participants with a classroom appreciation of current theories and practices as they apply to the media and the market. Participants then apply what they have learned in both actual and stimulated research conditions. Workshops cover the quantitative aspects to a typical research project.
Schedule: Saturdays, from Sept. 18-Oct. 23, 2004, 12:30-7:30pm
Course fee: Php 8,500.00/participant for PANA members
Php 9,000.00/participant for non-members

Negotiation
A course under the Purchasing and Supply Chain Management Program, offered in partnership with the Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM), this course will enable the participant to prepare for and conduct a negotiation in a professional way thus substantially increasing the chances of success. Through this program, they will also be able to set realistic and achievable negotiation objectives and targets incorporating it into the development of negotiation strategies. In addition to this, the art of questioning, active listening and the use of tactics and different persuasion techniques will also be explored.
Schedule: Saturdays, from Sept. 11- 25, 2004, 12:30-7:30pm
Course fee: Php 7,000.00/participant for PISM members
Php 7,500.00/participant for non-members

Emerging Marketing Trends
A course under the Strategic Marketing Management Program, this course focuses on the latest marketing trends in the local and international markets. The course provides marketing executives with a proper perspective on marketing trends and shows the executives how to adapt their marketing operations to these trends. Participants are also guided through making marketing decisions in the face of the current trends and developments of the different new marketing formats in the industry.
Schedule: Saturdays, from Sept. 11-Oct. 16, 2004, 12:30-7:30pm
Course fee: Php 6,500.00/participant inclusive of handouts

Retail Study
A course under the Retail Management Program, offered in partnership with the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), this course explores environmental scanning of the state of Philippine retailing. Different methods of retail research shall be indentified with a retail paper as an output. It also entails the application of the concepts learned in the Retail Management course. Strategies and tools to improve retail business concepts are also an added factor.
Schedule: Saturdays, from Sept. 11-Oct. 16, 2004, 12:30-7:30pm
Course fee: Php 6,500.00/participant for PRA members
Php 7,500.00/participant for non-members

Human Resource Planning
A course under the Human Resource Management Program, this course enables the participant to acquire skills in human resource planning, designing appropriate recruitment and selection policies and procedures of target manpower, and assesing the whole HR acquisition system of the organization.
Schedule: Saturdays, from Sept. 11-Oct. 16, 2004, 12:30-7:30pm
Course fee: Php 6,500.00/participant inclusive of handouts

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3 Malaysians infected with virus hospitalized

KUALA LUMPUR—Health experts warned that the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu appeared to be entrenched in parts of Southeast Asia as three people in a Malaysian village hit by the virus were hospitalized with flu symptoms.

Also, a Chinese laboratory said the avian influenza had been found in pigs, and authorities in northern Thailand reported a new outbreak in ducks.

A 16-year-old Malaysian girl, whose neighbor's chickens were infected by the H5N1 strain, had flu and a cough but "it is very unlikely it is avian flu because she is not having fever," a health ministry official said Friday.

Two more people—the girl's mother and a veterinary official—have also been hospitalized with flu symptoms, and tests were being carried out Saturday to see if they had the disease, Malaysian officials said.

The deadly strain ravaged poultry flocks throughout Asia earlier this year and killed 27 people in Vietnam and Thailand, which have dealt with recurring outbreaks.

The World Health Organization said it was troubled that the H5N1 strain had been found in Malaysia— and that the virus appeared to have taken root in parts of Southeast Asia.

"It is going to be a long and difficult struggle to eliminate this virus from the environment," said Dr. Shigeru Omi, WHO regional director. "And the longer it takes, the greater the risk to public health."

In China, a lab worker at the Harbin Institute of Veterinary Medicine said researchers have found the H5N1 strain in pigs, expanding the number of species that can be infected with the disease. The worker, who would give only his surname, Yang, refused to give other details.

It wasn't immediately clear if the virus was found simply in the snouts of the pigs or whether blood tests confirmed that the animals were infected. Pigs can pick up the virus from sniffing the ground, which doesn't mean they have the disease.

The deadly strain of bird flu has so far been able to spread from poultry to people, but not directly from one person to another. But health experts worry that it could mutate into a form that can be transmitted among humans.

Bird flu "is not very good at jumping from animals to humans at this point in time, but it can do so," said Dr. Julie Hall, a WHO expert in Beijing. "It is very important that we prepare for that eventuality."

Malaysia has gone on a nationwide health alert since its first cases of bird flu were reported Wednesday at a remote northern village near the Thai border.

In northern Thailand, the livestock department of Phitsanulok province said Friday that sick ducks had tested positive for the disease, but it wasn't immediately clear whether they had the H5N1 strain.

Authorities slaughtered nearly 3,000 birds to halt the virus' spread.

Bird flu has so far been detected in 22 of Thailand's 76 provinces. Phitsanulok is 335 km north of Bangkok. *AP*

S. Korea court says wife can refuse sex

SEOUL—A South Korean court has convicted a man of sexual assault for trying to force his wife to have sex in a landmark decision that challenges a Supreme Court ruling 30 years ago that said a man could not rape his spouse.

The criminal court in Seoul on Friday sentenced the 45-year-old man to a 30-month suspended prison term with three years' probation, it said in a statement.

The man, identified only as Kim, was found guilty of assaulting and injuring his wife in September 2002 when, under the influence of alcohol, he attempted to have sex with her and beat her when she refused.

"Marriage does not deprive spouses of their rights to make decisions concerning sex," the court said.

"Although spouses have obligations to accept their counterparts' demand for sex, it does not mean that they should yield to sexual intercourses forced upon themselves under violence or threats of violence," it said.

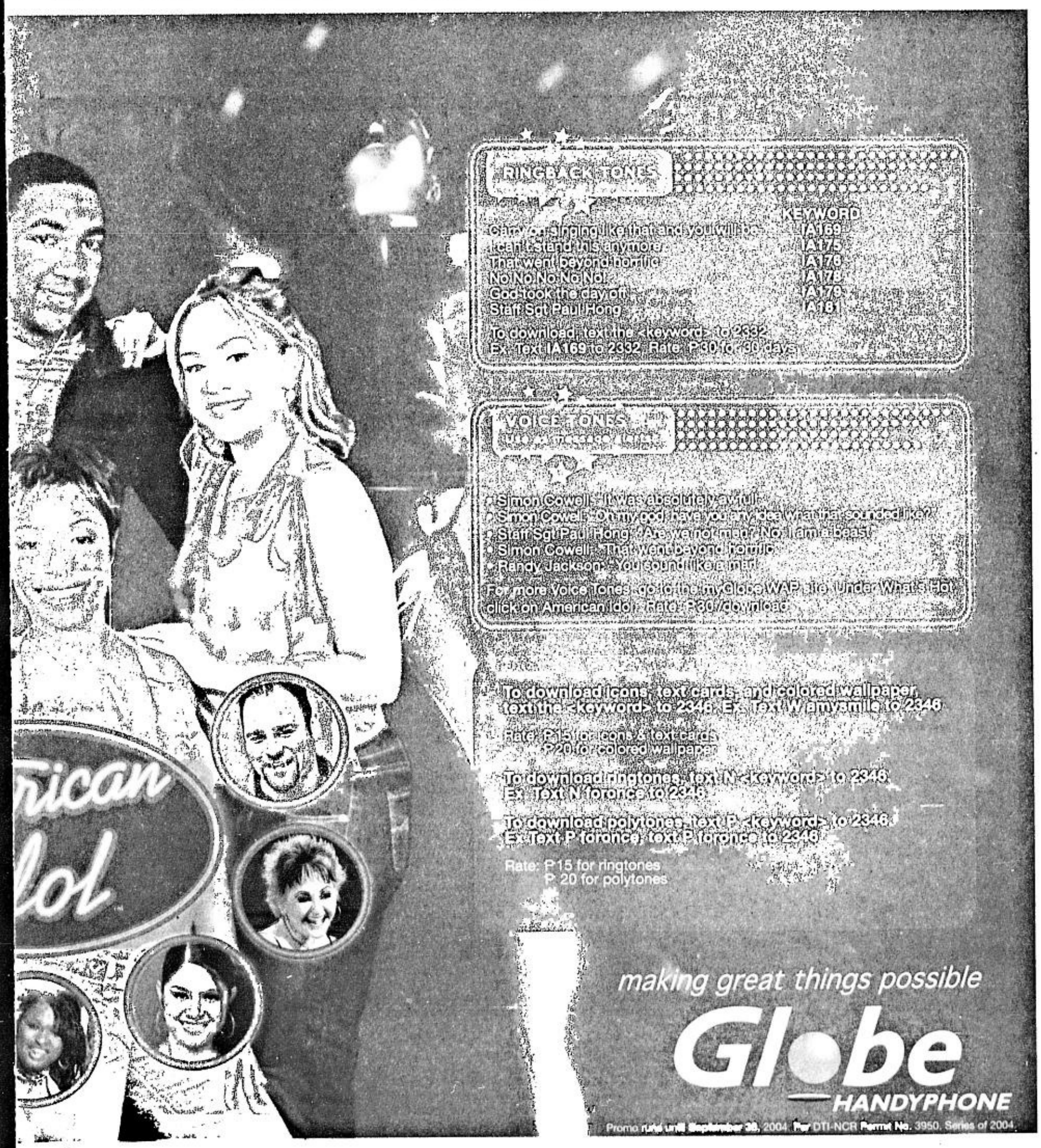
"The Supreme Court decision, made more than 30 years ago, should be reconsidered," it said.

In 1970 the Supreme Court dismissed a criminal case against a man who was indicted of raping his wife, saying spouses had granted each other the right to sex, even if this was forced.

The new ruling, considered progressive here, was welcomed by women's rights activists Saturday.

"This ruling is highly significant as the court has made it clear that there must not be unwanted sex even between married couples," said women's rights activist and lawyer Lee Myung-Sook.

Lee Mi-gyeong, president of the Korea Sexual Violence Relief Center, said: "This ruling will help change Korean men's wrong notion that they can do whatever they want to their wives." *AFP*



Another birthday in jail for Milosevic

THE HAGUE, Netherlands—Slobodan Milosevic has spent another birthday in UN custody, his war crimes trial at a standstill because of his fragile health and his judges facing a critical dilemma on how to proceed.

Should they allow the former Yugoslav president to continue defending himself, despite months of delays? Or should they impose a defense law-yer against his will?

The ruling, possibly later this month, not only marks a crucial juncture in the Milosevic case, but could set a precedent for other international trials, such as former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's, experts say.

Two and a half years and 296 witnesses on, Milosevic's trial hasn't yet reached the halfway mark. It has been six months since the court handled the substance of the case—66 counts of war crimes stemming from the Balkan wars of the 1990s, including genocide for the July 1995 Srebrenica massacre of Bosnian Muslims.

Since February when the prosecution ended its case, the tribunal has held several hearings only on Milosevic's health problems and has postponed the start of the defense case five times. It is now scheduled to begin Aug. 31.

Milosevic's brother, Borislav, told the Serbian daily Vecernje Novosti last week his brother is feeling better and hopes the trial will resume as planned. *AP*

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OPINION

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Failure to prosecute

EDITORIAL

WHAT is it about the latest controversy over the tax credit scam that fills us with so much dismay? It isn't the amount of forgone taxes, although the P1.1 billion lost from the dismissed and up-for-dismissal cases is not exactly loose change. It isn't the slow grinding of the wheels of justice, although it has been 12 years since the first tax credit certificates were fraudulently secured. And it isn't the evident lack of coordination between the various government agencies involved in the civil and criminal cases, although the infighting has sometimes spilled over to the front pages.

What explains the unbearable oppressiveness that comes over us, when we think about the government's losing streak? It is the sense of betrayal. When we read the reasons cited by the various regional trial courts in case after case—the "lack of interest to prosecute," the lack of "effort on the part of the plaintiff to pursue the implementation," the plain "failure to prosecute"—we feel betrayed by the justice system itself, which we find feckless, easy to manipulate.

We are right to feel betrayed.

A vigorous prosecution of the guilty is the promise behind the photo-ops and the publicity. When a ranking official presents alleged suspects in public, or damning evidence in a particular crime, we expect the government to push the prosecution to its logical conclusion: a guilty verdict.

We do *not* expect the prosecutor—Deputy Commissioner Gil Valera, in the case of the 60 collection cases filed by the Bureau of Customs—to pin the blame on officers of the court, for failing to do what officials of the executive ought to have done in the first place.

Valera's argument, that the first 14 cases were dismissed not through the fault of the prosecutors but because the summonses could not be served by the sheriffs of the court, is not a justification; it is a confession of a lack of imagination and a lack of political will.

To be a successful prosecutor, especially in white-collar crimes, one must be resourceful. Suspects will naturally try to outwit or outrun the law; a fictitious address or a shell company is only to be expected. Valera et al. should have known that the court sheriffs would have difficulty in serving the summonses, because of the very nature of the crime, and thus to prepare accordingly. But he makes it seem as if the difficulty in serving the subpoenas is a conclusion reached only after months of pre-litigation work, when in fact it should have been a fundamental assumption.

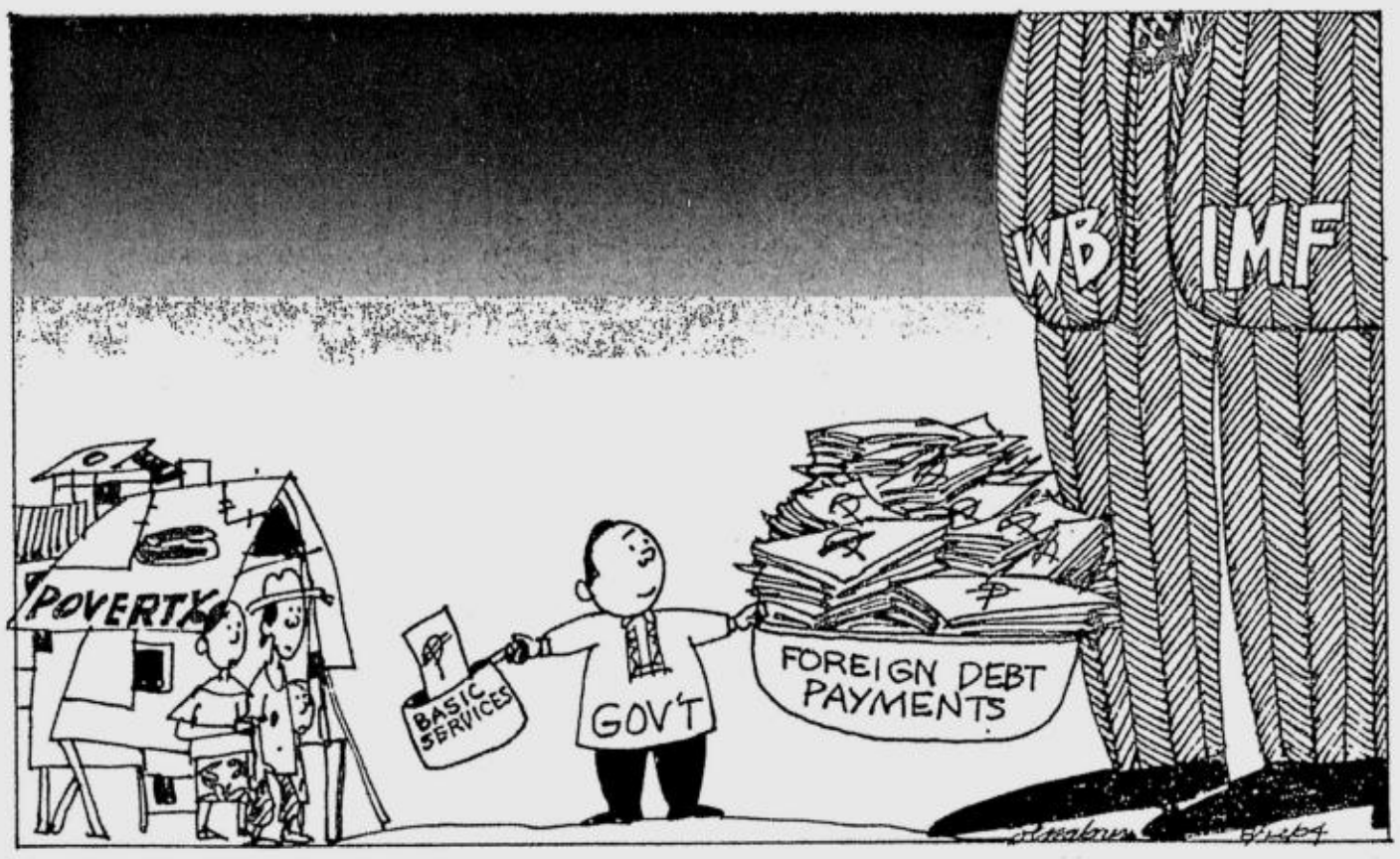
If private companies can hire collection agents to track down the addresses of delinquent subscribers, surely the government can do more than meekly accept a fictitious address as a dead end.

We are right to feel betrayed also because the disclosures come at the worst possible time. The government is laboring under the strain of an impending fiscal crisis; the Macapagal administration is pushing mightily for new taxes.

Thus, at the very moment when more and more people are asking difficult questions about where our taxes go, and why the gap between what the government earns and what it spends has widened, the dismissed cases remind us that government officials have often been careless about the way they handle our tax money. At the very same time we are being asked to pay more taxes, we get a reminder that the tax system is full of leaks, and the government is not serious about fixing the plumbing.

We are right to feel betrayed, lastly, because the very same thing has happened before. And involving the same tax credit scam too. Two years ago, evidence surfaced that Ombudsman Aniano Desierto or some of his people had deliberately filed demonstrably weak cases against some of those involved in the scam. At that time, Rep. Oscar Moreno read a privilege speech, accusing Desierto of filing cases designed to be dismissed. Desierto denied any wrongdoing in what this paper promptly called the Ombudscam, but in the end Congress failed to press Desierto for a detailed accounting.

As psychologists tell us, however, behavior is reinforcement. If one official gets away with legal murder, sooner or later another one will, too.



When will we grow up?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE MOST tragic defect of Philippine democracy is the stupidity of the electorate. This has led to another obvious failure and that is the incompetence of our officials. Recognizing this, some experts on the forms of government, or so they call themselves, suggest that we consider other regimes than our present system.

Democracy, they say, has failed us, and so we must try something more conformable to our temperament as a people. The Marcos loyalists argued that martial law was the ideal discipline to control and regiment the Filipino. It failed dismally. But even now knowledgeable political scientists believe that our people are far too free and need a little reasonable restraint.

The obvious example is Singapore, which is recognized as the economic lion of Asia. It is far from democratic, with its policies still being dictated by Lee Kuan Yew, who recently installed his own son as the new prime minister. There are no Reds in this city state and chewing gum is prohibited. But the officials are honest and nobody is starving.

Malaysia is another object lesson. Mahathir, who ruled the country for years, was an arbitrary disciplinarian who imprisoned his chief aide for, among other charges, homosexuality. Not many believed him but the charges stuck. Meanwhile, the country prospered by itself, without foreign aid. There is not much democracy there either, but Malaysia is thriving.

China is communist and elections there are controlled by the government. Hundreds of rebellious students were slaughtered at Tiananmen Square in 1989. The life of the ordinary citizen is restricted by a national ideology that leaves little for individual freedom and initiative. Yet the country has progressed from the punching bag of the West to an international superpower.

By contrast, take Indonesia. Its government is in trouble, just like the Philippine Republic. It is wracked with graft and corruption, with the military still in control against democratic lip service. Its economy is on the verge of collapse despite its rich natural resources, including oil. Sukarno and now his daughter Megawati have failed to prevent the downtrend of their country.

In the Philippines, the spread of democracy began with the Revolution from Spain in 1896 and the colonization of our country by the United States in 1898. Despite our economic exploitation by the new ruler, we have to admit that it helped tremendously in preparing us to govern ourselves through the ballot.

Elections in our country were initially held with a minimum of irregularities; in fact, they were generally peaceful and honest, earning for us the distinction of being the "showroom of democracy in Asia." It was a proud title we maintained over the years under the leadership of principled statesmen like Manuel L. Quezon and Sergio Osmeña who earned the covert admiration of the American administrators.

Vote-buying was before practically unknown in Manila; a politician who tried this strategy deserved plenty of derision but hardly any votes. Later, however, the running-mate of Mayor Lacson introduced the practice of distributing thick envelopes with money, and the ploy succeeded in corrupting elections in the city. Cash inducements are now a standard requirement for electoral victory.

On top of this, the growth of show business, assisted by radio and the new-fangled television, increased the appeal of entertainers, who began to muscle in on politics. A few of them succeeded until one of them actually reached Malacañang. Other actors, including toilet comedians and "propesterous" athletes, became members of Congress and popular local executives. Qualifications became only a secondary factor, if at all.

In the present Senate, there are at least three misfits who could not have won as dogcatchers in an enlightened election. Yet they now sit in that once august chamber where trod the likes of Recto, Laurel, Diokno, Tañada, Salonga, and before them Quezon, Osmeña, Roxas and Sumulong.

The Philippine government at present is a disgrace. It is awash in dishonesty and foolishness. There are still a few upright and even brilliant public servants, but they constitute a pitiful minority. They are shouting in the wilderness of graft and corruption, bewilderment and lack of direction, and rampant criminality. The people hear them but couldn't care less.

Some say the solution is to simply shift to the parliamentary system, as if it would automatically remove all our difficulties. That is a delusion. The problem is not our form of government but the people running that government. Basically, it is we the people, as the principals of our crooked and bungling officials, who are the root of all our troubles.

The last election defined the quality of our government. There was no serious discussion of the problems of the nation, only a uniform rejection by the candidates of the mother issues like taxes and drugs and the NPA. That done, they began to don ethnic costumes, danced and sang onstage, and looked macho or feminine. The electorate swooned with delight and voted like seduced teenagers.

When will we grow up? Unless we start to mature now, we may inevitably reach the helpless folly of a useless second childhood, with nothing to show for a wasted life.

Grace, not race

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told that at the final judgment, all people were gathered outside the gates of heaven. There was much anticipation and tension. Then, the announcement came: "All those who did not violate the First Commandment, take one step forward!" There was a great sound of jubilation and then thunderous sounds of footsteps.

Then came the same announcement for those who did not violate the Second, the Third, the Fourth, and the Fifth Commandment, and, though diminishing, there was still a great sound of jubilation and footsteps.

Finally, the announcement came: "Those who did not violate the Sixth Commandment, one step forward!" This was followed by a great silence—no jubilation, no footsteps could be heard. It was as if heaven stood still, until, finally, an old monk, after some moments of hesitation, summoned the courage to take one step forward.

Realizing the predicament that only one man would be saved, the crisis committee huddled at the side of Jesus, and then, the announcement: "General amnesty!" And the gates of heaven were opened amid sounds of jubilation. Then the feasting began, with the old monk at the center not quite knowing what he had just done.

* * *

There is sequel to the story: There were those who refused to enter heaven after the general amnesty was given because they felt that God was unfair. After all, weren't they the ones who worked more for Him, and who were closely associated with Him? Why should sinners and everybody be given the privilege of a general amnesty?

According to the story, those who refused to enter were forever banned from heaven. Why? Because they failed to recognized the generosity of God. They still were selfish and relied on their own merits and "credentials."

Such is the fate of those who think they "deserve" heaven. Excuse me! None of us deserves heaven!

* * *

I took the pain of relating the long story above to remind us of the message of today's Gospel (Luke 13, 22-30) i.e., the generosity of God, and the virtue of humility. Let us not limit God's love. Let us not measure God's love according to our own standards. Let us not resent God's generosity! Let us not compare ourselves with others in our work for the kingdom of God. Like the old monk, let us all do our very best, and leave the rest to God. Heaven is not so much a race but, more so, a grace.

* * *

God has a hard time dealing with those who think that life is all about doing and achieving. There are people like that. OK. Fine. The problem comes when these people want to impose their own standards on other people as well. In such a situation, it is so easy to slide into the sin of self-righteousness and adopt the "Holier that thou" attitude that afflicts many of us consciously or unconsciously. Instead of saying, "I hope *naman* that with all my goodness and sacrifices, I will go to heaven," it is better to say, "Lord, I am a sinner, trusting in your mercy. I hope to somehow go to heaven!" Amen!

* * *

Through the years, I have spread this one constant message: "God Loves You!" It's because that's all I really believe in! I know that I would not have become a priest and would not have remained a priest until now if I did not truly believe that God really loves me, unworthy as I am.

A lot of people have been touched by this message and have accepted it with humility and gratitude. But, there were people who accepted it in a self-righteousness way saying, "He should, because I am good and I am working so hard and sacrificing so much!" The worst of this kind was someone who said: "Yes, God loves me. He has good taste."

* * *

I have just been to Davao at the Mergrande Ocean Resort to give a retreat to the faculty and personnel of St. Mary's College of Tagum City. I try to take time out to be with educators who, I believe, are often not given proper recognition and appreciation, in spite of their hard work and sacrifices. One of the activities we had was picking up a "prayer partner" for whom we will pray during and after the retreat. There were 141 participants and whose name did I pick up? That of Nestor Espedilla, a carpenter in the same school.

It was God's way of telling me and the group that, indeed, His ways are not our ways, His generosity and choices are beyond our control, and that He exalts the humble and the lowly in our midst. Indeed, the last will be the first.

* * *

I thank God for the privilege of running errands for him in this life, unworthy as I am. Doing God's work is its own reward. I have met so many people and experienced meaningful moments because of my priesthood and my ministry. To God be the Glory. May we never lose sight of grace through it all. It is His work we do or, more precisely, we are allowed to do. May we never make it our own source of fame and glory. In the end, we come to Him in gratitude and humility, deeply aware that He is the reason for all that we are and for everything we do.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to see life as a pilgrimage and a journey, and going to heaven not so much as race but a grace. Amen.

As good as it gets

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

IN 1998, Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt both won Academy awards for their performance in the movie "As Good As It Gets." Nicholson played a cranky, bigoted writer, while Hunt starred as a friendly waitress able to tolerate his idiosyncrasies. Together with a neighbor, Greg Kinnear, they get together on a weekend and somehow learn the true meaning of "the sunny side of life."

* * *

Last month, retired Commodore Jose Francisco marked his 95th birthday with the publication of his autobiography, entitled " As Good As It Gets." It is a personal narrative of the highlights in a naval career which took him from a lowly midshipman at the US Naval Academy at Annapolis to flag-officer-in-command of the Philippine Navy. It is a book filled with heartwarming vignettes spanning more than 30 years and touching on some of the more memorable experiences in the life of Jose Somosa Francisco who, at the age of 95, still plays nine holes of golf three times a week, enjoying the sun, the fresh air and the exercise in the company of old friends who have stayed together through the years.

It was 1927, Charles Lindbergh had just flown solo across the Atlantic. In Manila, an 18-year-old boarded the US Army troop transport USS Thomas bound for San Francisco. (It was the same ship which in earlier times transported over 500 American teachers who would become known as the Thomasites.) Francisco was headed for Annapolis, the only candidate who passed the Philippine Civil Service exams for entrance to the top naval school in the United States. He had also taken and passed the qualifying tests for the US Military Academy at West Point.

The young boy had no travel documents, no passport and no visa. All that he carried with him was a letter of appointment signed by the governor general and "a safe conduct pass with instructions to US government agencies to extend all help needed to get him to his destination." For Francisco, it was a dream come true.

On his third year in Annapolis, the US stock market crashed and the Great Depression set in. It was one of the most important events in modern history as businesses were wiped out and wealthy executives ended up selling apples and pencils on street corners in New York. Many queued for free bowls of soup.

Upon graduation, Francisco was informed that there was a hiring freeze. Actually, the whole purpose of sending *pensionados* to Annapolis and West Point was to produce Filipino officers for the Philippine Scouts. But in 1931, only those graduating from West Point were given commissions in the Scouts. There was nothing for Francisco.

He reverted back to civilian life and returned to the Philippines where he took up flying with the Iloilo-Negros Air Express, a pioneering air transport company operated by the Lopez family.

It was in Iloilo where he met Pacita Zamora at an open-air dance program during a carnival held in the city.

While dancing with Pacita, he brashly suggested a bet: If she could not name the song being played, he would get a kiss. She was so incensed at the whole idea that she considered leaving him on the dance floor. Luckily for him, it started to rain and he gallantly offered his jacket which she readily accepted seeing it as a sign of repentance. After a brief courtship, they eloped, getting the local parish priest to perform the marriage rites in the dead of night.

After three years with the Iloilo-Negros Air Express, Francisco joined the Philippine Constabulary Air Section. He was sent to the US Army Air Corps training center in Randolph Field, Texas, becoming the first Filipino to graduate from the center.

Returning to the Philippines, he served as a flight instructor with the Philippine Army Air Corps. One of his students, Lt. Colonel Dwight Eisenhower, would become supreme commander of Allied Forces in the invasion of Europe and later president of the United States. It was "Ike" who encouraged him to stay with the Air Corps instead of joining Philippine Airlines which was then being organized by Andres Soriano.

* * *

In 1950, President Elpidio Quirino reorganized the Armed Forces, creating the Philippine Navy out of the old Philippine Naval Patrol. In doing so, Quirino promoted Francisco to the rank of commodore and retained him as head of the new organization.

During his watch, Francisco instituted combat pay, specialist pay, hazardous duty pay, flying pay, and sea duty pay for the officers and men. Navy vessels were christened with the names of provinces, cities, inland waters and ethnic regions.

Commodore Jose Francisco retired from the military service on Dec. 23, 1961 at the age of 52. He had spent exactly 30 years in the service, nine of them as head of the Philippine Navy, or 12 if you include his tour of duty as chief of the Philippine Naval Patrol. Today he holds the record as the longest serving flag-officer-in-command (FOIC) of the Philippine Navy, its oldest living former chief and the oldest living Filipino graduate of the US Naval Academy.

As the commodore put it: "I have lived a full life and I am content. I have done my duty and lived with honor as best I could. I have done so for my country and my God. I enjoy the company of my children (Renato, Monina and Linda), grandchildren and great-grandchildren when I see them. I am happy to be alive and healthy and full of years. I have learned to thank God for each moment and to savor it, knowing that this is as good as it gets."

Make peace, not war on population front

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

IT is easier to mess around with the bedroom behavior of the poor than to tax the wealthy. No better example of this can be found than in Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman's "two-child family" bill, on the one hand, and the determination of Philippine congresspersons to oppose any new tax bill, on the other. And once again the old sterile debate is heating up, between those who see population growth as the villain which is blocking national development and those who refuse to admit that there is a population problem. Each side carefully selects the "good facts" which support its cause and closes its eyes to the "bad facts" which call it into question.

In addition to selective use of facts I find, at least from the side of those opposing the bill, a use of arguments which impugn the motives of the bill's supporters, reading motives into the author's mind and seeing the bill as a ploy supported by a foreign-funded NGO to fatten the profits of foreign contraceptive firms. This only distracts from a very important and crucial issue.

To focus on the crucial issue and move out of the sterile debate which has beclouded the issue for the past 30 years and more, it might be useful to reflect on a few facts, without first asking whether they are "good" or "bad."

First, economic demographers who for a long time were hesitant to assert that population growth impedes economic development have concluded on the basis of more sophisticated data that rapid population growth has exerted a significant negative impact on the rate of economic growth in developing countries; and that high rates of population growth make it difficult for poor families to move out of poverty ("Population Matters," edited by Birdsall, Kelley and Sinding, Oxford University Press, 2001).

On the other hand, population control is no quick fix. The children who will be crowding into the nation's grade schools five years from now and who will be entering the labor market 15 or 20 years from now are already born. Unless we go in for infanticide ("and why not?" proponents of abortion might reply), there is nothing we can do about it other than to jump-start the economy and increase the budget for education and social services.

And indeed there are more effective ways to boost the economy and provide social services than by reducing population growth. Graft and corruption, and the immense sums paid to legislators over and beyond their salaries—many of which sums are tax-free—are good places to begin. On the perks of lawmaking the reader might want to consult the chapter by that title in the work by Sheila S. Coronel and others, "The Rulemakers" (Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, 2004).

Moreover, as President Macapagal-Arroyo has recently pointed out, the growth rate of the Philippine economy has consistently been greater than that of its population. One reason this growth has not resulted in significant poverty reduction is that it has accrued mostly to the better-off families. Even a minor redistribution of income, through taxation, in the direction of the poor could do wonders for the latter. But "it is easier to mess around ..."

Finally there is the "dirty little secret" of those who would go all-out for population control: much of the world today has birth-rates below replacement level and is faced by population decline—as a result of a contraceptive mentality and a preference for a second car and a vacation abroad over having another child. The consequences of population decline are not yet fully understood, but they may well be disastrous for economies as the work-force becomes smaller and the number of the aged increases.

Does this mean that we should not be concerned about population issues? Not at all. My personal view is that we should be very concerned about family size among the poor, since that is where it hurts and will continue to hurt as long as a day laborer or a scavenger attempts to support four, five, six or seven children on his tiny and insecure income.

Moreover, we know that there is considerable "unmet need" for family planning services among Filipino families. The National Demographic and Health Survey of 1998 found that 19 percent of married women of child-bearing age wanted no more children at least for the present, and were not using any form of family planning. This 19 percent, which other data indicate are in the poorer socio-economic classes, should in my estimation be the target group. There is no need for quotas or setting an ideal family size, but only for helping each family to have the number of children that the parents want and can support, and to do so in a way that conforms to their consciences.

The Catholic Church, as is well known, is opposed to contraception, but not to family planning. The Second Vatican Council insists that parents—and parents alone—should decide on the number of children whom they will bring into the world, and that they should do so in view of the good of the family and of the society in which they live ("The Church in the Modern World" No. 50). It also recognizes the right and obligation of individuals to follow their consciences. Thus, it should be possible for responsible elements in the Church and the state, and other religious groups as well, to ignore the extremists on both sides, to end the cold war that has been going on for too long, and to work out a modus vivendi for the good of the Filipino people.

Can you tell who's gay?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ALL this talk about gays in the police force, especially the bluster of those fools in uniform who claim only "machos" have a place in the PNP, reminds me of a short story we studied back in high school.

I forget the title, but it was about a foreigner who arrived to work as a ranch hand in Texas and quickly became the object of derision of the other cowboys, who laughed at him because he couldn't speak their language and was easily spooked by things like the sound of tractors starting or of trucks roaring through the dirt roads. The newcomer was in danger of being hounded out of the ranch until one day a child wandered into the enclosure of a notoriously ill-tempered bull. An alarm was raised but none of the swaggering cowboys would dare enter the bull's pen.

To their surprise, it was the foreigner who clambered up the fence, bearing a bit of red cloth. Facing the raging bull, he waved the cloth at the bull, which charged at him. To the other men's amazement, the newcomer deftly stepped away and let the bull brush past him, while the child, seeing the bull distracted, fled the enclosure to safety.

The "coward" whom the others had laughed at and derided was a bull fighter in his native Spain, the epitome of courage and manliness in the land where machismo was invented.

By telling this story, I don't mean to imply that gay men and women are actually bull fighters at heart. But perhaps courage and daring have nothing to do with masculinity or femininity, or at least their "proper" expressions.

* * *

MOST of the objections raised regarding the acceptance of homosexuals in the police force have to do with their "unfitness" for this line of work.

How can their colleagues or partners feel confident, some police interviewed on TV said, when gay police would probably run shrieking and screaming at the first sign of trouble? New PNP Chief Edgardo Aglipay, backtracking from an earlier statement that he said had been "taken out of context," even observed that it would be "unseemly" for a uniformed law enforcer to be seen "swaying his hips."

In the first place, everyone opening his or her mouth on this topic seems to be confusing sexual orientation with swishy behavior. The two, at least in the case of gay men, don't always go together.

One is a homosexual if one is sexually attracted primarily to other people of the same sex. You can be "gay"—a term adopted by male homosexuals as a political identity—but not be effeminate. Likewise, a man can display effeminate behavior—speaking in girlish tones, swaying one's hips, or loving Barbra Streisand—but still be sexually attracted to women.

So it is with lesbians. A woman may be sexually attracted primarily to women and yet be "feminine" in dress and behavior. Likewise, a "butch- looking" woman may go around with short hair, jeans and leather jackets but still hold lustful feelings for men.

* * *

BESIDES, who decides what the "right" appearance, behavior, dress or demeanor is for a man or a woman, anyway?

Time was when wearing pants was decreed unseemly for a woman, while such machos of the Roman Empire as Julius Caesar went around in long robes. Filipinos used to believe that education for a woman would make her too "uppity" and thereby threaten domestic harmony. We also used to believe than men who cooked and cooked well were somehow less than manly.

Standards of masculinity and femininity keep changing and are different from place to place, culture to culture. Besides, there is no way to tell, from surface impressions alone, what another person's sexual orientation is. Aglipay and the machos of the PNP may decree the police force off limits to gays, but good luck to them when they try to determine this on a case-to-case basis.

Finally, a reminder. Courage in the face of danger is not the exclusive property of a single gender or sexual orientation. How does the saying go? In the Philippines, it's the women who have the balls?

* * *

ACCORDING to its owners, during the early days of the Chocolate Kiss Café, now with two outlets at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, whenever they played the CD soundtrack of the movie "Sleepless in Seattle," the then still unknown café would start filling up with customers. "From then on," they said, "on occasions when the restaurant seats were empty, and the quiet of the dining room troubling, songs from the 'Sleepless in Seattle' soundtrack would start filling the air."

Perhaps they hoped the same good vibes would bless the café in the future, or the owners simply love the standards that make up most of the songs on the "Sleepless" soundtrack. Whatever the reason, hosting a dinner-dance for the benefit of the UP Health Service, the owners of Chocolate Kiss decided to call the affair "A Kiss to Build a Dream On," after a song in the movie soundtrack sung by Louie Armstrong, and chose "music of the '40s and '50s" as the evening's theme.

So last Friday evening, music lovers enjoyed a feast of the café's always marvelous food and justly famous pastries, while being transported back in time by such songs as "Someone to Watch Over Me," "What a Wonderful World," "Paper Moon," "All the Way" and, of course, "A Kiss to Build a Dream On."

Da Capo, a band composed of musicians who play regularly at Chocolate Kiss, plus special guests Tito Hilario on the saxophone and vocalist John Francis, were the night's performers. But the real scene stealer was an eight-year-old girl named Alexa, daughter of violinist Royce Aviguetero, who astounded the audience with her rocking violin interpretations of "La Vida Loca" and even a song by Brittany Spears! The dinner-dance may have been meant to recall days of past innocence and unbridled romance, but Alexa certainly brought everyone up to speed!

Meditations on revolution

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

ON AUG. 22, 1979, exactly 25 years ago today, the government of revolutionary Nicaragua was formally established following the collapse of the regime of Anastacio Somoza Jr. Under a revolutionary charter known as the Fundamental Statute of the Republic of Nicaragua, the new Sandinista government abolished the old constitution, dismissed the existing Supreme Court and Congress, and dismantled the "remaining structures of Somocista power."

I remember marking this day of triumph over dictatorship. The Nicaraguan revolution had cleared a path for movements struggling to overthrow American-backed authoritarian regimes all over the Third World. Ferdinand Marcos still seemed invincible then, but in my heart, I knew that sooner than later, he would also have to go. It was just a question of how many lives had to be sacrificed before the nation would regain its freedom.

More than this, I wanted to know how the fascinating Sandinistas, forged in the fires of diverse leftwing traditions, were going to conduct the difficult task of social reconstruction.

Until then, all of Latin America had been a terrain of failed revolutions. Cuba, which had freed itself from the grip of a corrupt dictator and his Mafia associates 20 years earlier, stood alone as a defiant example of the troubled quest for an alternative. America had tried everything in its manual of counter-revolution to subvert the Cuban experiment. Several times it plotted the assassination of Fidel Castro. It trained and armed an army of Cuban exiles for an unsuccessful invasion in 1961. It imposed an economic embargo that remains in effect to this day. It has isolated Cuba from the world by threatening sanctions on other countries that would do business with it.

The triumph of the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua was, in a big way, also Cuba's victory. Fidel Castro was instrumental in unifying the various factions in the Sandinista movement into a solid front against the Somoza dictatorship. Though hardly in a position to offer material resources, Cuba remained a powerful symbol of change in the whole continent.

To the United States, a second Cuba was simply unacceptable. It came as no surprise therefore that when Ronald Reagan became president, his first act was to fund and arm the Contras in Nicaragua in order to prevent the spirit of the Nicaraguan revolution from spreading like wild fire in the rest of Latin America.

The US-funded Contras failed in their bid to dislodge the Sandinista government by force, but they succeeded in dissipating the attention of the revolutionary government and forcing it to spend its limited resources on arms with which to defend itself. In an effort to win global goodwill and pave the way for the normalization of the country's political administration, the Sandinistas held an election to elect a regular president in 1984. As expected, the Sandinistas won that election. But their political victory only provoked more economic destabilization efforts aimed at showing that a Marxist government would not be able to solve the country's economic crisis.

By 1990, Daniel Ortega, the Sandinista president, unexpectedly lost to Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, the opposition candidate and widow of the former La Prensa editor Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. Violeta Chamorro was an original member of the five-member Sandinista Junta. From thereon, the Nicaraguan social experiment began to evaporate. Subsequent elections failed to bring Ortega back to the presidency. We heard nothing more about the revolution until the other day, when a former Sandinista, Dr. Alejandro Bendaña, came to the University of the Philippines to give a lecture.

Until 1985, the revolutionaries still wielded state power, but ironically they could no longer use this power to reorganize and rebuild Nicaragua. The more serious the crisis grew, the harder the social reconstruction of Nicaraguan society became. The Sandinistas found themselves, in the words of Bendaña, slowly "letting go of the machine of the State."

Today they still control about 40 percent of the legislature, and more than half of the local governments. One cannot really say they are out of power. But the Sandinista Party, says Bendaña, has become as conventional as other electoral parties, subject to the same vices and corruption afflicting politicians. They could not even stop an IMF-imposed structural adjustment program in 1989.

"So, what is power? What is revolution?" asks this former Sandinista ambassador to the United Nations. Revolution has to be much more than seizure of state power, he says. It has to lead to a democratization of social relations at all levels of society, or it is not a revolution.

By coincidence, also last week, I had a chance to view with some friends the film about Fidel Castro that HBO commissioned Oliver Stone to make in 2003 but refused to air. "Comandante," a documentary film based on three days of interviews with the Cuban leader, is an extraordinary portrayal of the problems and dilemmas of revolution. With very sparse commentary, the film shows Fidel in a reflective mood, and provides a glimpse of the steely resolve and powerful mind of a man who is bent on defending the revolution he began.

The Cuban revolution is 45 years old. Cuban society is a model of social equity and popular participation. As a nation, it is proud and independent. It can defend itself. But its economic poverty and isolation from the rest of the world, the result of its refusal to bow to American domination, will deter other nations from following its path. Is there an alternative?

(Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com)

THEY SAID

Aimless art

"I had no formal architectural training. I studied at the '*pukpok-tastas*' school of architecture. Like my films with no script, this art space was created without any plan, without a blueprint."

—Alternative filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik on the art space he created in Baguio

Minor(ity) concern

"I can work with the minority even if one or two don't like my face."

—Sen. Panfilo Lacson, when asked if he could work with Sen. Edgardo Angara despite their feud

Conservation tax

"The more we reduce taxes, the more we would discourage conservation. We need to renew our call for fuel conservation and efficiency."

—Energy Sec. Vincent Perez on the government's position not to slash existing tariffs and taxes on crude and petroleum products

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Who's behind the media killings?

THE PHILIPPINES has earned the distinction of having the biggest number of journalists killed so far this year after Iraq. Six Filipino journalists, all of them broadcasters working outside Metro Manila, have been killed since February. Four of them died between July 31 and Aug. 12, a period described by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) as the "worst two weeks" for press freedom in the country.

Data gathered by PDI research and the NUJP showed that a total of 80 media people have been killed since April 1986. No journalist was killed in 1994 and 1995.

Many of the victims exposed the corruption and wrongdoing of local politicians and men in uniform. They reported on *jueteng*, illegal logging, drug trafficking and human rights abuses. A few died in attacks by the New People's Army.

Alarmed by the rash of killings, journalists staged last week mass actions in Metro Manila, Malolos, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Davao City, Pagadian and General Santos.

A total of P3.2 million has been offered for information that would lead to the arrest of those behind the killings, while the police have been directed to look into each unsolved case and to form teams of 10 policemen each to hunt down the suspects.

The attacks on journalists have continued because the perpetrators can get away with murder. Hardly anyone has been imprisoned for killing a journalist.

We all are

By Inday Espina-Varona
Chair, National Union of Journalists of the Philippines

I'm no fan of conspiracy theories and am not about to accuse the government or any criminal superbody of a systematic attempt to kill media practitioners. Still, we've had 13 media murders in less than two years. This year, only Iraq has had more killings of media professionals. Iraq is a nation at war. The Philippines is purportedly a democracy. So why is press freedom under siege?

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) has a list of 55 colleagues slain since 1986. The Philippine Daily Inquirer lists 79 deaths. The NUJP apologizes to the families of those we had missed in our research. Any media list shows most of the killings occurred in the provinces. That shouldn't surprise anyone. Most NUJP officers grew up in the province, where might is often made the arbiter of righteousness.

If former defense chief Angelo Reyes, now the interior secretary, wants a trend to latch on, here's one. Read the news dailies for a month and see for yourself the incestuous relations that link criminal, political and, unfortunately, law enforcement groups in the provinces. Those ties extend all the way to high levels of government.

On Aug. 18, media reported how senior police officers tried to smuggle out of the country a young Filipino-American involved in a vehicular incident that killed President Macapagal-Arroyo's assistant for resettlement, Nestor Ponce. His escorts weren't two-bit cops. They were officers of the National Police Directorate for Operations in Camp Crame.

I suppose Reyes and Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. (now the national security adviser) will call that an isolated incident. And they probably think the same of policeman Guillermo Wapile's role in the murder of Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio.

Wapile's mug

Wapile's mug has been printed in many newspapers, the Inquirer among these. Different media organizations have screamed themselves hoarse calling for the Philippine National Police (PNP) to arrest Wapile, whom local cops had graciously allowed to "escape" from jail. Yet during the Aug. 16 dialogue between top PNP officials and journalists, the officers seemed at a loss as to the man's identity. An officer actually offered to post "Wanted" signs—something the media has been doing for the last year, as Merpu Roa of the Center for Community Journalism Development pointedly reminded our protectors.

The PNP leaders also appealed for media's help in the hunt for our colleagues' killers. Roa, of course, had to note that journalists have been providing tips on the whereabouts of Wapile—tips authorities have yet to act on. Gunmen killed a witness to the Damalerio slay. Others are in hiding. Wapile struts around with impunity; the journalist's kin live in fear. And our cops whine about the lack of witnesses?

Authorities like to attribute this problem to a lack of sympathy for slain journalists, something blamed on victims' unspecified "extra-curricular activities."

It is one thing to bemoan corruption in media. Cops have no business justifying the murder of journalists. Neither can they prescribe, as Ebdane did, silence as the solution to threats of violence. Yet, it is high time we address the other roots of the nightmare that haunts our profession.

Yes, many media practitioners are rude and regularly hurl filth at both the guilty and the innocent. Yes, some of us are in the attack-collect-defend-collect trade. And yes, our efforts at self-regulation often flop.

Code of ethics

One of the questions I ask participants in media is, "how many have read the Code of Ethics?" It's a good day when I get a 50 percent response. But that is only part of the equation. We cry out for professionalism yet many owners of media firms refuse to pay professional wages. Some refuse to pay wages, period. Poverty is no excuse for corruption, but only hypocrites would demand ethical behavior from people they starve.

Who dunnit? We all did it.

So long as leaders of media delude themselves into thinking the problem of violence, poverty and corruption can be forced into neat little boxes, we shall all remain sitting ducks.

These are not orchestrated

By Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao
Spokesperson, Philippine National Police

There's no single group that's targeting journalists. These are not orchestrated killings. These are isolated or independent of previous killings. The present cases have no relation at all to previous killings. There's no plan to hit the journalists.

It's interesting to note that based on our data of journalists killed from 1984 up to the present, several were killed in a crossfire between government troops and the communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

Manila Bulletin correspondent Pete Mabazza and Reuters photojournalist Wilfredo Vicoy were part of a military convoy that was ambushed by the NPA in Tuguegarao, Cagayan in April 1986.

There were also three others—commentators Rogelio Zagado and Leo Palo, and radio technician Narciso Balani—who were killed by a suspected NPA rebel right inside the dxRA radio station in Davao City in August 1987.

Apparently, the killings of the three were an offshoot of their falling out with anti-communist vigilante leader Jun Pala. One, alias Bunaying, had been identified as the leader of the group that was tagged in the killings.

And of course, in February 1998, lawyer Odilon Mallari, dxCP radio commentator in General Santos City, was killed by two suspected members of the NPA liquidation squad.

Apart from these cases, we have no general profile of the suspects in the other cases.

Exposés

We believe that most of the journalists were slain because of their stinging commentaries against and criticisms of personalities. They were done in because of their exposés.

But still, we think some of the cases were not work-related. Take the case of GMA 7 correspondent Jonathan Abayon of General Santos City. Abayon was killed by his friend during a drinking spree.

Another one, Fernando Consignado, a correspondent of Radio Veritas in Nagcarlan, Laguna who had been inactive for months, was gunned down over a land row.

We're not pushing for the arming of journalists. But they can apply for permits to carry firearms outside residence.

The journalists can also request security from us. If they feel threatened, they can approach us for assistance. We can't tell if a journalist is threatened or not. Only he can say if he's threatened.

Roger Mariano, the dzJC radio announcer who was gunned down on July 31 in Ilocos Norte, was given security before he was killed after he received some threats. After a few days, he changed his mind.

In Metro Manila, I know a hard-hitting commentator who has requested security from the Marines.

We're doing everything to solve these cases. In fact, PNP chief Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. formed Task Force Newsman to follow up on the cases of the journalists slain this year.

Still, there are some cases, like those perpetrated by rebels, where it's hard to track down the suspects.

Solved cases

Obviously, we differ with some journalists' groups with regard to the definition of 'solved cases.'

The criminal justice system is composed of the police, prosecutor, court, correctional and community. As far as law enforcement is concerned, once we're able to file the case and arrest the perpetrator, we consider that solved.

Even if the hearings are not through, we consider the case solved.

In the criminal justice system, our role stops there. Where our role ends, the prosecutor comes in. The next step would be the courts.

(Interview by TJ Burgonio)

JOURNALISTS KILLED SINCE 1986

Edgar Damalerio
dxKP commentator, Pagadian

Ruel Endrinal
dxRC commentator, Legazpi City

Benjaline Hernandez
College Editors Guild, Cotabato

Roger Mariano
dxJC-Aksyon Radio, Laoag

Ferdinand Reyes
Press Freedom Weekly , Dipolog

2004 (As of Aug. 12)

- **Ruel Endrinal** (Feb. 11, Legazpi City, Albay, dzRC commentator, newspaper publisher)
- **Ely Binoya** (June 17, Upper Labay, Gen. Santos City, manager and commentator of MBC-dzRH Radyo Natin in Malungon, Sarangani)
- **Roger Mariano** (July 31, San Nicolas, Laoag, dzJC-Aksyon Radio broadcaster)
- **Arnel Manalo** (Aug. 5, Bauan, Batangas, Bulgar and dzRH correspondent, also wrote for Southern Tagalog Public Forum and Veritas)
- **Jonathan Abayon** (Aug. 8, Gen. Santos City, dxBB reporter)
- **Fernando Consignado** (Aug. 12, Nagcarlan, Laguna, Radio Veritas correspondent)

2003

- **John Villanueva Jr.** (Apr. 28, Legazpi City, dzGB-AM announcer)
- **Apolinario "Polly" Pobeda** (May 17, Lucena City, dwTI-AM radio program anouncer of Nosi Balasi)
- **Bonifacio Gregorio** (July 8, La Paz, Tarlac, Dyaryo Banat columnist)
- **Noel Villarante** (Aug. 19, Sta. Cruz, Laguna, The Laguna Score columnist, dzJV reporter)
- **Rico Ramirez** (Aug. 20, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur, dxSF-FM reporter)
- **Jun Porras Pala Jr.** (Sept. 6, Davao City, dxGO Aksyon Radyo)
- **Nelson Nadura** (Dec. 2, Masbate, dyME)

2002

- **Benjaline "Beng" Hernandez** (Apr. 5, Arakan Valley, Cotabato, College Editors Guild, Karapatan researcher)
- **Edgar Damalerio** (May 13, Pagadian City, dxKP commentator, managing editor of Zamboanga Scribe, "Enkwentro" Cable TV host)
- **Sonny Alcantara** (Aug. 22, San Pablo City, Laguna, Celestron Cable TV commentator, Kokus publisher)

2001

- **Rolando Ureta** (Jan. 3, Kalibo, Aklan, dyKR program director, an affiliate of Radio Mindanao)
- **Mohammad Yusop** (Feb. 24, Pagadian City, dxID [Islamic Radio] Broadcasting commentator)
- **Candelario Cayona** (May 30, Zamboanga City, dxLL radio announcer)
- **Joy Mortel** (May 31, Talabanhan, Occ. Mindoro, Mindoro Guardian reporter)
- **Noel Esin** (Noli Ebarle) (Aug. 31, Butuan, dxBC)

2000

- **William "Billy" Yap Yu** (May 14 , Pagadian City, Pagadian City Star publisher)
- **Vincent Rodriguez** (May 23, Sasmuan, Pampanga, dzMM correspondent)
- **Olimpio Jalapit** (Nov. 17, Pagadian City, dxPR radio host of program "Lampornas")

1999

- **Bienvenido Dasal** (Jan. 2, Koronadal, South Cotabato, dxKR Radyo Agong reporter)
- **Frank Palma** (Apr. 25, Bacolod City, Bombo Radyo senior reporter)

1998

- **Odilon Mallari** (Feb. 15, Gen. Santos City, dxCP commentator and host of "Tingog sa Pioneer")
- **Reynaldo Bancayrin** (March 29, Zamboanga City, dxLL, anchorman of "Bale Todo")
- **Nelson Catipay** (Apr. 16, Cotabato City, dxMY correspondent)
- **Danny Llasos** (May 13, Bacolod City, dyHB Radio Agong correspondent)
- **Dominador "Dom" Bentulan** (Oct. 30, Gen. Santos City, dxGS, former Philippine News Agency bureau chief)

1997

- **Danny Hernandez** (June 3, Manila, People's Journal Tonight columnist and news editor)
- **Regalado Mabazza** (Dec. 17, Tuguegarao, Cagayan, Polaris Cable Network)

1996

- **Ferdinand Sales Reyes** (Feb. 12, Dipolog City, Press Freedom Weekly News publisher and editor)
- **Roberto Berbon** (Dec. 15, Cavite dzMM, editor and commentator)

1993

- **Romeo Legaspi** (Jan. 11, Zambales, Voice of Zambales publisher)
- **Ding Sade** (Nov. 22, Cotabato, Cotabato News)
- **Rosauro Lao** (Nov. 22, Cotabato, Cotabato News)

1992

- **Danilo Vergara** (July 1, Iligan City, Philippine Post publisher, secretary of Mindanao Press and Iligan Press Clubs)
- **Ladjid Jade Ladja** (July 3, Zamboanga City, Prensa Zamboanga correspondent)
- **Greg Hapalla** (Sept. 21, Zamboanga City, dxAS Zamboanga commentator)
- **Gloria Martin** (Dec. 30, Isabela, Basilan, dxCP, Radio Philippine Network correspondent)

1991

- **Nesino Toling** (April 14, Ozamiz City, Panguil Bay Monitor publisher and editor)
- **Candido Basilisco** (May 1, Cebu City, Philippine Puncher publisher and editor)
- **Nicasio Enciso** (May 26, Tagaytay City, Manila Bulletin columnist, Federation of Provincial Press Club president)

1990

- **Benito Mercado** (Jan. 4, Iligan City, Iligan Sentinel photojournalist)
- **Enrique Lingan** (Feb. 4, Lucena City, Quezon Times reporter)
- **Joseph Kruegger** (Feb. 6, Oriental Mindoro, Mindanao Balita publisher)
- **Enrique Ger** (Feb. 7, Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro)
- **Reynaldo Catindig** (May 15, Tumauini, Isabela, North Sierra Madre Express publisher and editor)
- **Jean Ladringan** (July 8, Gen. Santos City, Southern Star publisher and editor)
- **Mahaidin Abdullah** (July 9, Cotabato City, dxCM)
- **Frank Mararac** (July 10, Lingayen, Pangasinan, dwDW and Sunday Punch reporter)
- **Jaime Ramoros** (Dec. 25, Iligan City, dxIC)

1989

- **Mandangan Abedin** (March 7, dxIC news correspondent)
- **Severino Arcones** (Oct. 17, Iloilo, dyFM-Bombo Radyo, reporter and anchorman)
- **Cesario de Vera** (Nov. 23, Biñan, Laguna, dzEC correspondent)
- **Eddie Telan** (Dec. 1, Quezon City, newscaster)

1988

- **Jose Nasperos** (1988, Pampanga)
- **Noel Miranda** (March 29, Tagum, Mindanao Scanner publisher and editor)
- **Ricardo Ribano** (June 22, Quezon, People's Journal correspondent)
- **Oscar Apolinario** (July 23, Surigao City, San Francisco Times)
- **Ruben R. Manrique** (Aug. 12, Balanga, Bataan, Luzon Tribune, publisher and editor)
- **Josef Aldeguer Nava** (Oct. 30, Iloilo, Visayan Life Today, publisher and editor)
- **Noli Resurreccion** (Nov. 17, Laguna, dzMM correspondent)

1987

- **Virgilio Pacala** (March 24, Southern Luzon, Manila Hotline)
- **Dionisio Perpetuo Joaquin** (April 12, Olongapo, Olongapo News)
- **Manuel Sanchez** (June 9, Quezon City, Channel 13 cameraman)
- **Leo Palo** (Aug. 27, Davao City, dxRA commentator)
- **Bobby Zagado** (Aug. 27, Davao City, dxRA)
- **Narciso Balani** (Aug. 27, Davao City, dxRA)
- **Cesar Magalang** (Aug. 27, Davao City, dxRA)
- **Ed Palomares** (Aug. 27, Davao City, dxRA)
- **Martin Castor** (Aug. 27, Quezon City, Pilipino Ngayon photojournalist)
- **Robert MacDonald** (Aug. 28, Quezon City, Pacific Defense Reporter photojournalist)
- **Ramon Noblejas** (Aug.28, Tacloban, dyVL reporter and announcer)
- **Leo Enriquez** (Oct. 10, Cebu City, Kyodo News Service stringer, People's Journal)

1986

- **Willie Vicoy** (April 24, Tuguegarao, Reuters photojournalist)
- **Pete Mabazza** (April 24, Tuguegarao, Manila Bulletin reporter)
- **Florante "Boy" de Castro** (Gen. Santos City, dxCP)

(Compiled by PDI Research and the NUJP)

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Journalist's slaying premeditated

NBI autopsy finds signs of murder

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The result of the autopsy conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation on the body of slain GMA Super Radyo reporter Jonathan Abayon raised more questions on the investigation conducted by the local police.

As this developed, INQUIRER correspondent for General Santos City Aquiles Zonio received a threatening text message on Saturday morning.

The message read: "Ikaw n sunod n tutumba! Di namin nakakalimutan perwisyo mo sa op'n nmin! Tingnan ntin tapang mo magsulat! Adios! (You are the next to fall. We will not forget the harm you caused our operations. Let's see how brave you are. Goodbye.)"

Zonio said he tried calling the sender, who used a Talk N' Text SIM pack, but the number was already unattended.

He said he could not speculate on what group was behind the threat, which came in the wake of a nationwide rage against violence perpetrated on journalists.

In the Abayon slaying, Carlito Rodaje, head of the medico-legal section of NBI-Sarangani District Office, told newsmen here that he did not find any trace of gunpowder burn in the victim's face, contrary to police findings that the reporter was shot at point-blank range.

Rodaje conducted an autopsy on Abayon's body on Thursday noon at the Christ the King Funeral Homes in Polomolok town, South Cotabato.

Two feet

He said he was more inclined to believe that the main suspect, former Army Sgt. William Bael, was about two feet from Abayon when he fired the gun.

In his two-page report, city police director Supt. Willie Dangane claimed that Abayon, who was seating beside the driver's seat, was shot by ex-Army Sgt. Willian Bael, who was occupying the backseat, after an altercation.

Dangane also claimed in the same report that the firearm used was a .45-cal. pistol based on the slug recovered inside the pick-up vehicle.

"Based on the entry and exit points of the bullet, it was very awkward for the suspect to shoot the victim from behind. The assailant was not an elastic man," Rodaje told the Task Force Media (TFM), a body created by newsmen here to monitor the progress of the Abayon murder case.

Rodaje said there should be "tattooing marks in the bullet's point of entry" if the gun was fired at close range.

The task force requested the NBI to conduct an autopsy on Abayon after the local police cleared boxer Manny Pacquiao of any involvement in the killing.

Bael served as Pacquiao's bodyguard although he was disowned by the boxer after Abayon's death.

Rodaje also said the type of the gun used was still being determined but he theorized that a "hardball bullet" was used in killing the victim based on the entry and exit wounds.

Solid bullet

Hardball bullets, which websites devoted to guns describe as two percent tin, six percent antimony and 92 percent lead, are solid.

This type of bullet, which weighs 230 grams, is standard issue for the US military and is often called service ammunition.

It is very effective up to 25.5 feet from the gun's nozzle and travels at about 850 feet per second, according to the magazine July 2002 issue of American Handgunner.

Gun experts here said this type of bullet is used to ensure the target is dead.

They said the target would hardly survive once hit by this special type of bullet.

Rodaje said if a hardball bullet was used, then it is possible the killing was premeditated.

He said he would also ask the General Santos Doctors' Hospital to submit to the NBI bullet fragments recovered from the victim's wound during the surgery to determine what particular type of handgun was used.

Rodaje said "maraming masasagasaan (many would be affected)" if a deeper investigation would be conducted.

He said they would also consider why there was no autopsy conducted by a government doctor when "this is a standard procedure."

He also found it unusual why there was no scene of the crime operation (Soco) report.

Meanwhile, Dangane was visibly irked at the Task Force Media's initiative to have the NBI investigate Abayon's murder when he said it would only weaken the case the police filed against the suspect.

Justice

In Ozamis City, local journalists observed the martyrdom of former Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Saturday by demanding justice for slain colleagues and condemning the recent spate of journalist killings as a "mockery of democracy."

Carrying placards and wearing black armbands, some 30 members of the Misamis Occidental Media Practitioners Society (MOMPS) and the provincial chapter of National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) marched some three kilometers through the city's major streets mid-morning.

Broadcaster Expedita Roxas, MOMPS president, exhorted colleagues to rise above fear and instead continue the cause of seeking and airing the truth.

"This should be the fitting way to remember and honor our fallen comrades in the profession," Roxas said.

In a statement, MOMPS said while Aquino's sacrifice shook the nation's apathy and recharged the struggle to restore democracy by ousting from power the Marcos dictatorship, the killings of journalists, almost with impunity, negates those democratic gains.

MOMPS said the struggle to protect the lives of journalists must not be confined among journalists alone but must include the people as "it is them, their welfare, that is at stake should the forces trying to destroy democracy by killing the bearers of truth succeed."

"Democracy can only be alive and functional if freedom of the press is safeguarded," MOMPS reminded citizens.

MOMPS also asked citizens to help identify the personalities behind recent threats against Roxas and fellow broadcaster Neptalic Batolenio. *Aquiles Z. Zonio and Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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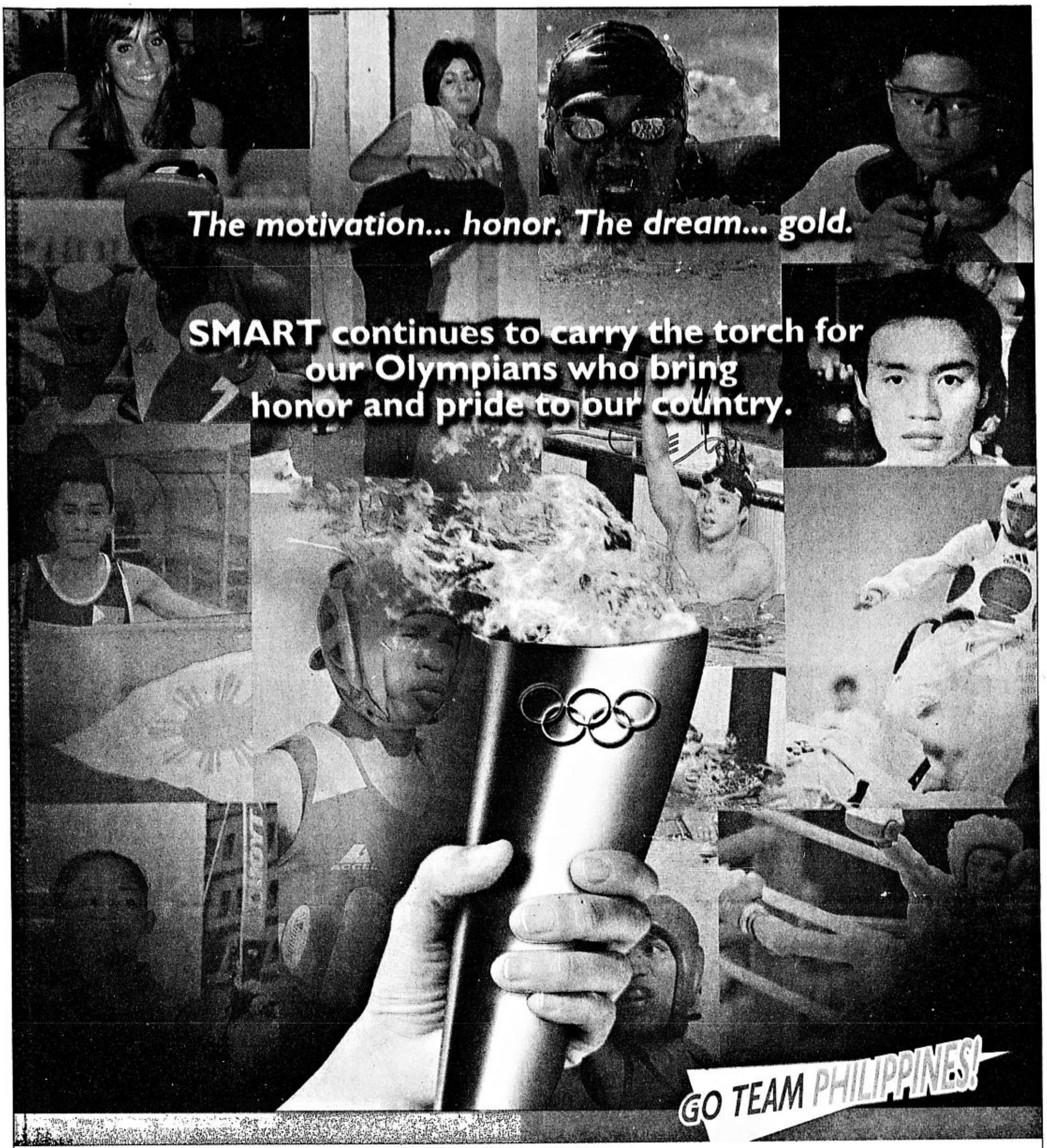

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MY HEART WILL GO ON	CELINE DION	OMT6

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Land dispute triggers clash between MNLF, MILF

COTABATO CITY—The military said a land dispute has triggered skirmishes between members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Pagalungan, Maguindanao.

Col. Isagani Cachuela, chief of the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade based in Carmen, North Cotabato, said several people have already died because of occasional exchange of gunfire, mostly from snipers of both sides, that began on Aug. 17.

But he said the military could not determine the number of fatalities from both sides.

Cachuela said the clashes started over a vast tract of land in Barangay Kilangan in Pagalungan.

He said the dispute over this piece of well-irrigated land has also prompted some residents to evacuate.

Cachuela has urged concerned government agencies to mediate between the warring parties under MNLF Commander Sultan Alonto and MILF Commanders Bawsi and Salonga.

He said the feuding groups have already agreed to negotiations provided government authorities from the agriculture, agrarian reform and natural resources departments and the bureau of lands would attend.

"These killings and other atrocities if not resolved will lead to more violence," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said.

Kabalu said local leaders could also help by brokering amicable settlements like the payment of "blood money" to aggrieved parties. *Charlie C. Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Mayor's son held

BANGUED, Abra—Police arrested on Wednesday a son of the mayor of Daguioman town on charges of possession of illegal drugs. Reports said Melchor Co Kue, 24, son of Mayor Sally Co Kue, yielded less than 0.1 gram of shabu during an entrapment operation conducted by policemen in Barangay Zone 4 here. *Artha Kira Paredes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Grenade attack on cop

KORONADAL CITY—Unidentified men on Wednesday afternoon hurled a grenade at a police patrol car in nearby Tantangan, South Cotabato. The explosion injured at least two policemen, identified as SPO3 Bobby Tugas and SPO2 Andrea Lagundino. SPO3 Roberto Manzano Jr., Tantangan police officer-in-charge, said two men aboard a motorcycle hurled the grenade as the patrol car was cruising the highway around 2:30 p.m. The motive of the attack was still being determined. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 more in committees

DAVAO CITY—Two more Mindanao congressmen were named chairmen of powerful House committees. Surigao Rep. Prospero Pichay (Lakas) now heads the Commission on Appointments, while Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas (NPC) heads the House Electoral Tribunal. Both Pichay and Cagas were appointed by fellow Mindanaoan, House Majority Floorleader Prospero Nograles, Davao City's first district representative. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

5 Koreans missing

CITY OF CALAPAN—Police here launched a search for five missing Korean nationals: Kim Young Shin, Kim Yoon Young, Choijung Yoon, Kim Young Rok, Park Sun Min. They were reported missing by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, which sought police assistance. The tourists reportedly went to White Beach in the resort town of Puerto Galera last week. Their parents related to police that they were moving to Boracay island but lost communication with them. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Medical mission

CITY OF CALAPAN—A medical mission is now going on at the Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital. Being treated are those with cataract, myoma, thyroid, harelip and breast growth. Operations started on Aug. 19 and will end tomorrow. Since Aug. 17, cataract operations and pterygium scraping were done at the Naujan Community Hospital. Volunteers came from the University of Santo Tomas, dzRH Operation Tulong, Sukub Foundation, Rotary Clubs of Calapan and Manila, Armed Forces of the Philippines reservists and private and government doctors. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Wanted man falls

SORSOGON CITY—Sorsogon City police arrested on Wednesday a wanted man accused of rape. Arrested at the Sorsogon State College compound was Reggie Jeresano, 21, of Barangay Barayong here, by virtue of a warrant of arrest for rape, with no bail recommended. Jeresano was detained in this city's police jail while awaiting trial at the Regional Trial Court Branch 51 under Judge Jose Madrid, who issued the arrest warrant on July 28. *Emir Emano Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Fishermen nabbed

SORSOGON CITY—Task Force Bantay Dagat and a police augmentation team arrested four persons allegedly for illegal fishing, while the authorities were conducting patrol in the territorial waters of Bacon District here on Wednesday. Arrested for using air compressors in fishing were Noel Diaz of Barangay Sto. Domingo; Roland Grutas and Reynante Grutas, both of Barangay Del Rosario, and Anjo Laguardia of Barangay Abuyog. Police also confiscated flashlights, improvised goggles, a container and a gallon of gasoline, ignition cord and three spear guns. The suspects were charged with using illegal methods for fishing. *Emir Emano Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Missing person found

PRIETO-DIAZ, Sorsogon—The body of a missing person was found buried in a shallow grave in Barangay Tupaz here on Wednesday. The victim was identified as Alvin Balderama, 27, a native of Rapu-Rapu, Albay, and residing in Barangay Lupi of the same town. Balderama, a fisherman, reportedly left their residence at around 10 a.m., Aug. 10 to attend the Prieto-Diaz town fiesta and and had never returned, police reported. Police led by SPO4 Noel Morales proceeded to the crime scene to investigate, with the assistance of a medico legal officer. *Emir Emano Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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China seals deal to buy textiles made of coconut

SORSOGON CITY—Good news for all coconut farmers.

China has committed to import geotextile, a product derived from the coconut husk, from the Philippines as part of the agreement signed between the two countries for the implementation of the Nucleus Farm Development Project (NFDP).

This was disclosed by Philippine Coconut Authority administrator Danilo Coronacion here recently, based on a taped record of his meeting with PCA and Department of Agrarian Reform officials in the Bicol region.

The NFDP is a joint effort of the DAR and the PCA.

Coronacion said China made an initial order of geotextile measuring about six million square meters to be used to control erosion in Beijing as part of its preparation for the 2008 Olympics.

Erosion affects almost 240,000 hectares of land in China yearly, according to the PCA official.

He said the Philippines has 3.1 million hectares of coconut land that produces 12.5 billion coconuts yearly, from where one million metric tons of coconut husks can be used to produce geotextile.

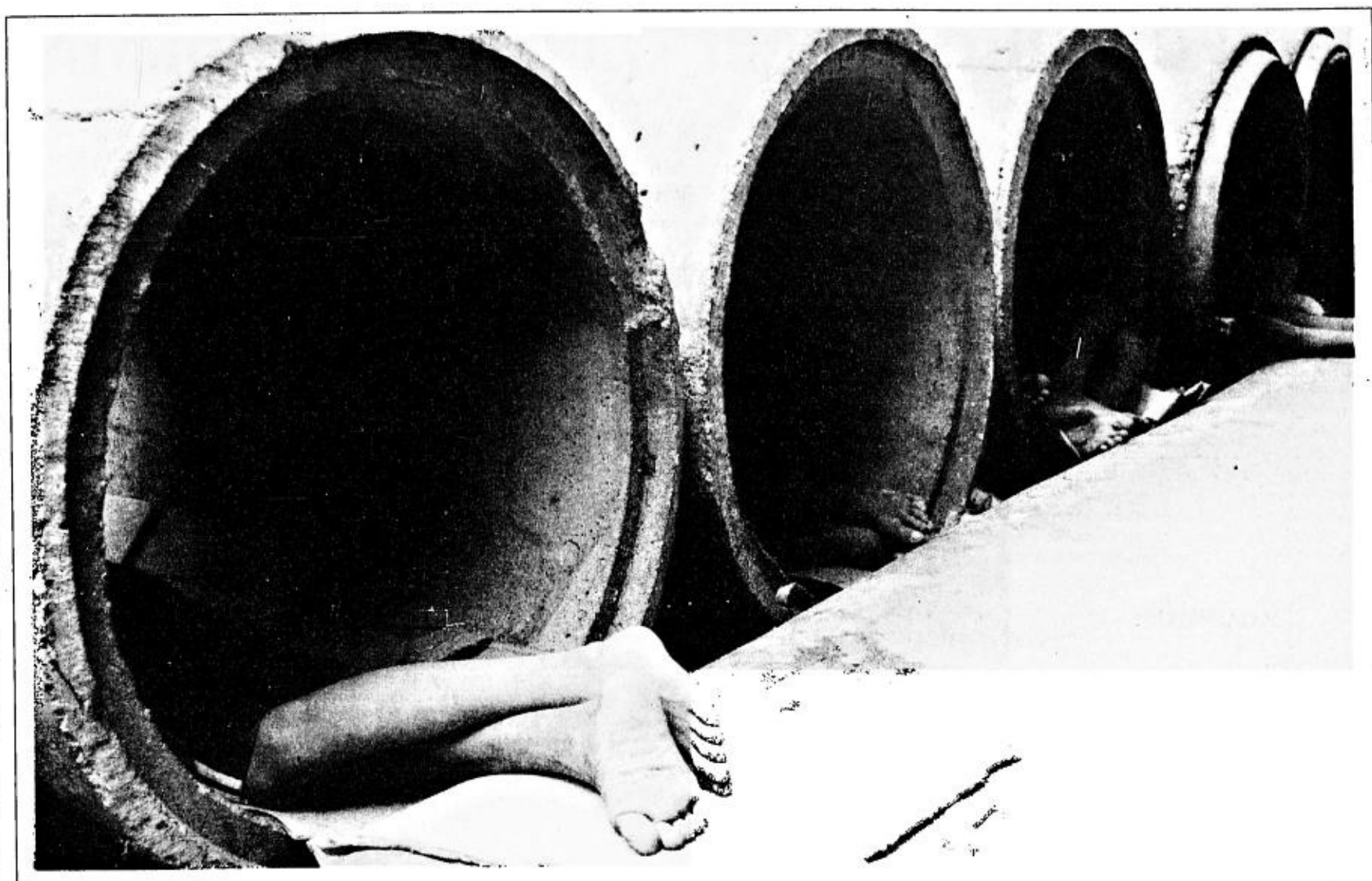
The NFDP is estimated to cost $100 million.

Some $40 million will be allocated for farm inputs to enhance productivity of coconut trees in identified areas covering some 400,000 hectares; $40 million for machinery and equipment for the establishment of activated carbon and coco processing facilities; $15 million for development of hybrid seeds for intercropping and $5 million will finance the technical aspect of the project such as study, design, training and support services.

Areas from the provinces of Quezon to Sorsogon—dubbed the Quezon-Sorsogon Grid—were declared priority areas due to their strategic location, sufficient infrastructure, accessibility of transportation and proximity to Manila.

Other priority areas are the Samar-Leyte Grid, Zamboanga-Dipolog Grid, and Davao-Sarangani Grid.

In Sorsogon, 23 barangays in five municipalities were declared NFDP pilot areas—San Isidro, San Pascual, San Ramon, San Roque and San Vicente in Bacon district, Sorsogon City; Calomagon, Inararan, Nasuje, Antipolo and Namo in Bulan; Bolo, Hidhid and Pawa in Matnog; Beriran, Carriedo, Cabiguhan, Jupi, Dita and Payawin in Gubat; Del Rosario, Sogoy, Inang and Ginablan in Pilar. *Emir Emano Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



REUTERS

HOME
Street children find home in rows of drainage pipes in Zamboanga City that provide them shelter and rest from days of wandering and searching for luck.

GMA tells Customs: Stop sugar smuggling

By Bernadette Parco
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has directed Bureau of Customs officials to "stop smugglers in their tracks" as part of efforts to keep the sugar industry afloat.

She gave the instruction to newly appointed Commissioner George Jereos in a speech she gave to the delegates of the 51st annual convention of the Philippine Sugar Technology (Philsutech) at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City Wednesday afternoon.

"In a private meeting, I gave special instructions to Cebu District Collector Billy Bibit ... two months to give significant results against sugar smuggling," she said.

But the President said the bulk of the work requires the cooperation of main players in the sugar industry.

"On the part of the sugar industry, the challenge is how to remain profitable while consumers enjoy lower sugar prices," she said.

This could be accomplished with "sound production cost, efficient transport and logistics," she said.

She said she instructed the Philippine Sugar Corp. (Philsucor) to help finance the importation of urea.

"This should bring down the price of fertilizer which is one of the reason for the increase in the cost of (sugar) production," she said.

Ms Arroyo also directed the Tariff Commission to review tariff reclassification for imported sugar-based products, which have reportedly been flooding the local market.

She also cited the Philsutech for spearheading technology transfer in the sugar industry resulting in increased productivity that enabled the country to attain export growth in sugar over the past three years.

The President said domestic sugar production grew by 500,000 metric tons (MT) over the past three years, or from 1.8 million MT in 2001 to 2.3 million MT this year.

Ms Arroyo said average sugar production rose from 98 bags per hectare in 2001 to 115 bags per hectare this year.

The productivity growth allowed the country to expand its sugar exportation from 53,000 MT this year to 230,000 MT next year, she said.

Abducted activist's wife remains uncertain of loved one's fate

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CABANATUAN CITY—Like other people in the country, she is happy about the release on Wednesday of two government soldiers from New People's Army rebels after 171 days of captivity.

But for Dee Batnag-Ayroso, 35, she has other all-consuming sentiment about it: "I envy the wife of Lt. (Ronaldo) Fidelino. She and her child have him back and they are certainly very happy about it," Ayroso said in a statement to the INQUIRER.

Ayroso, who stays here but occasionally goes to work in Metro Manila as a part-time media person in a production firm, said Fidelino's wife, Leah, and their two-year-old daughter no longer suffer the fate she and her two children are suffering.

That fate, she described, is "a very painful, endless waiting" for the coming home of her husband, Honorio Ayroso, who was abducted by five armed men on Feb. 9, 2002 in Asan Jose City.

Also abducted with Ayroso was his friend Johnny Orcino. Both men were former activists.

At the time of their abduction, Ayroso was an active member of the Bayan Muna while Orcino was its Nueva Ecija coordinator.

Ayroso's wife claimed both men were abducted by operatives of either the military or the police.

"They (the operatives) perceived the two as enemies of the state," she said.

"At the end of each day, we face the uncertainty of our beloved Honorio not coming back home. My daughter Alab celebrated her second birthday in 2002 without her father and my son Ayad who is soon to turn nine is growing without a male role model," she said.

She was comparing Fidelino's daughter, Alliyah Nicole, who celebrated her second birthday on Aug. 16 without her father.

Fidelino and the other captured soldier, Pfc. Ronnel Nemeño, could have been easily killed by their captors who belonged to the NPA's Romulo Mallores Command but were not, Mrs. Ayroso said.

She said the captors of Fidelino and Nemeño respected their rights and treated them well. "My husband's abductors did not have much of the same heart for him and his friend Johnny. They did not also have the same heart for the families of Honorio and Johnny," she said.

On Nov. 1 and 2 last year, Mrs. Ayroso and Orcino's wife Cristina lighted candles for their husbands "to light their way home."

DOT looks at South Koreans as source of tourism income

BAGUIO CITY—The Department of Tourism is tapping tourists from South Korea to boost the tourism industry in Northern Luzon.

Purificacion Molintas, DOT Cordillera director, said they would market Northern Luzon's beaches and golf courses to Korean tourists to improve tourism-related activities in the region, including the Cordillera.

Molintas said Koreans are the third top foreign visitors in the country. Americans top tourist arrivals in the country, followed by Japanese.

According to DOT records, 179,000 Korean tourists arrived in the country from January to June this year.

Last week, Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab led a DOT familiarization tour of 12 Korean tour operators in Baguio City and Banaue, Ifugao, which is famous for the centuries-old rice terraces.

Palabyab said the delegation included the top tour operators in South Korea who could endorse Northern Luzon's tourism packages to the South Korean government.

He said they are marketing tour packages especially for rich Koreans who want to visit the region's resorts, golf courses and other scenic spots.

"We want to tap the right market in Korea, we want to tap those who are really willing to spend," he said.

While several cities in the country, among them Baguio, host communities of South Korean expatriates, many of them go to either the Visayas or Mindanao to spend their vacation instead of heading to Northern Luzon, Palabyab said. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gordon says Durano unfit for tourism post

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Sen. Richard Gordon criticized the choice of Cebu Rep. Joseph Ace Durano as tourism secretary, saying he was too inexperienced to run a flagship department.

"We need a leader in the tourism industry; not somebody who is learning the job as he goes along," Gordon said during a press conference here on Friday.

"Cebu Rep. Joseph Ace Durano may be a good congressman and may be bright but let's not practice on tourism at this time," he added.

Gordon said he has very serious concerns about Durano's appointment "not only because of the political accommodation aspect but because tourism must be a flagship program of the country and you must put in your best there."

The President has been criticized for appointing Durano to the post because he does not have any experience in the tourism field. Many perceive his appointment as a payment of political indebtedness because the Nationalist People's Coalition, of which Durano is the secretary general, helped carry her to victory in the May elections.

Gordon, who was tourism secretary before he ran for a Senate seat in May, said he has to emphasize the need for an experienced person to handle the department.

"We must remind the government that tourism is the fastest way to get our people jobs and for the country to earn more dollars that will enable the Central Bank pay the country's debts," he said.

Tourism, he said, is growing by 30 percent this year and the industry will need a leader who can sustain the growth.

"You need somebody who is visionary about tourism, who can go all over the world and be recognized and be respected... know promotions, marketing... and be a calming effect in times of crisis," Gordon said.

Gordon said if he were the President, he would have stood by outgoing Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan until he found somebody good for the job.

"Pagdanganan is not a firebrand but he's a marketing man," Gordon said, referring to Pagdanangan's long stint with the consumer product company Unilever.

Gordon said he would have gotten somebody very aggressive as tourism secretary, like Patrick Gregorio, president of the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City.

Gregorio, also from Cebu, was initially touted to be a contender for the post, especially after he was endorsed by Cebu tourism sector leaders.

Gordon, however, said that while he believed a more experienced person should have been given the tourism portfolio, he would be prepared to help him if Durano's appointment is confirmed by Congress.

Gordon, who chairs the Philippine National Red Cross, was in Bacolod on Friday for a conference with Red Cross directors of Bacolod City and Negros Occidental.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

DOH taps services of 'panday'

THEY have maintained a good following and health officials of Tawi-Tawi want to integrate the old and sometimes bizarre practice of the *Panday* to the sophisticated and more medically-acceptable mainstream practices of taking care of pregnant women and the children. JEFFREY M. TUPAS

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

THEY may be not as invincible or as powerful as many superheroes are, but these aged women claim they have special skills and powers that enable them to gain the trust and respect of many people all around the province.

One of them is 60-something-year-old Abu Pinang, who, except for her agility at her age, does not exactly look weird or bizarre enough to draw the stereotyped picture of people with paranormal abilities.

Abu Pinang, born Josefina Taburada, says she has the ability to chase off bad spirits to keep newly born children and their mothers safe. She has been deflecting evil spirits since she was 16, she says. At that age, when she already had three children, she began practicing the craft she learned from her elders.

Abu Pinang is one of the hundreds of traditional birth attendants locally called "*panday*" (*hilot* in Tagalog) in Tawi-Tawi—the same women whose jobs are being subjected, if not threatened, by the plans of the health department to assimilate them with the mainstream health workers.

The Department of Health is even trying to lower the number of pregnant women who are seeking health attention from the *panday*.

"There is a possibility that we can actually reduce the number of pregnant women seeking health attention from the *panday*," says Dr. Sukarno Asri, the provincial health officer.

Every pregnant woman, Asri says, should have access to professional health workers, like doctors, nurses and midwives. But he admitted that it would be difficult for the government to compete with the *panday* because of the "relationship" that the old women have established with the people.

Now, Asri says, there is a growing trend of pregnant women seeking medical assistance from professionals, especially in the towns where there are professional health workers.

But he says the pregnant women were not actually discouraged from going to the *panday* for health services because the *panday* have almost become part of the people's culture.

Apart from this is the fact that while the health department would prefer women going to their clinics, the *panday* are making themselves very accessible and available to the people.

No competition

"We just can't compete with them because they are all around. They are community-based and their services are very intimate and personalized, while some of them do their job voluntarily," Asri said.

For Abu Pinang and her colleagues, the influence and existence of the *panday* could never be endangered by anything.

Neng Abubakar, 50, says the *panday* would forever be more sought after birth attendants in Tawi-Tawi than the professional ones.

"The women would always look and seek our attention and services. I don't think they would lose their confidence in us, especially since we have special powers," Abubakar said.

The powers, which they call "*ilmo*," come in different forms and are for different uses.

One of the most popular *ilmo* that the panday use is the *yamuning sin kuting* or cat's placenta.

Zenaida Lim, a believer, says she herself uses the dried placenta of a cat in her belief that it can lessen labor pains and make delivery a lot easier. She is on her third pregnancy.

A woman, Lim says, is bathed with a special concoction of herbal medicines, oils and prayers for lesser labor pains. "I think it works because it worked for me," she says.

Another pregnant woman, Myn Ingkong, says she chewed the dried placenta during her first pregnancy and it made what she thought to be very painful and difficult surprisingly painless, and her recovery was really fast.

"A few minutes after I gave birth, I stood up and went on with the household chores," Ingkong says.

Professional services

But while respecting their belief, Asri says it would always be better if mothers would be aware of the importance of getting the health attention that they can always get access from health professionals.

Pregnant mothers, he says, must know the possible repercussions of not having prenatal and postnatal consultations and the immunization needs of the children. These services can never be offered by the *panday*, he says, although they can always brave the mountains and put their own lives at risks by offering their services to pregnant women.

For the whole province, the infant mortality rate is 80-85 percent higher than the national rate. This is alarming data, Asri says.

Along with poverty and inaccessibility to basic health services, the mortality rate among children can also be blamed on the ineptness of the *panday*, the health official says.

"This can be explained by the inaccessibility of the people to basic health services. Sometimes, the child is only brought to the hospital when the health problem is already at the late stage when it is already almost too late," he says.

"The lack of health personnel in the barangays that can diagnose the problem at its early stage and then the delivery of babies that is mostly done by the traditional birth attendants are factors to be considered," he adds.

For this reason, the DOH trained some of the *panday* to upgrade their skills from the very superstitious to the medical.

"That is why we are training them in the proper management of pregnant mothers in their delivery, asceptic technique—in the cutting of the cords to minimize or eradicate risks of tetanus and infection," he says.

Among their trainees, and the most willing to work with them, are Abu Pinang and Ingkong.

Now the *panday* women, as they hike up the mountains and hop from island to island, carry with them their kits, a manifestation of their willingness to cooperate with the DOH.

Still, Abu Pinang says, she could not be compelled not to practice her popular craft.

Search on for missing Ozamiz relic

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Ozamiz City

A RENEWED search for a centuries-old image of the Blessed Virgin, which was stolen some three decades ago, was recently launched by officials of Ozamiz City as part of efforts to restore a relic of the city's Iberian heritage.

The stolen item is a five-foot wooden statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary that had been the object of veneration of the local Catholic faithful for over two centuries.

According to an account of Jesuit priest-historian Miguel Bernad, the statue resembles "the Virgin of the Apocalypse with flowing robes, a crown of 12 stars, and angels and clouds, and a serpent and the moon under her feet."

18th-century fort

Resty Acapulco, a former newsman who now chairs the city mayor's Council of Advisers, said the image was stolen from the local church sometime in 1974. A person named Bernad, who was visiting his family in the city, discovered the loss and called the attention of the parish priest, he recalled.

The missing statue resembles another image hung on the postern gate of an 18th-century Spanish fort in the city known as the Birhen sa Cotta. During the Spanish period, the wooden statue was placed in a wooden chapel inside the fort for veneration by Spanish soldiers. It was transferred to the town church in the mid-1940s when the Americans took over the fort, which was used as a Japanese garrison during the Second World War.

Acapulco, who covered the story about the image's loss and the search, said the statue came all the way from Bilbao, Spain. It was the only image of the Blessed Virgin in the world that is listed in the Vatican archives as the Nuestra Senora del Triunfo dela Cruz (Lady of the Triumph of the Cross), he said.

Before the relic was stolen, a scapular embedded with two emerald stones that adorned the Blessed Virgin was lost, added Acapulco, "as if portending a greater tragedy." The scapular belonged to the Spanish-descended Bernad family; it is worn on the image every time it was marched in a procession during the Blessed Virgin's feast on July 16.

Acapulco related that an Irish diviner with whom a Columban missionary priest had consulted, said the statue had been dumped into the sea.

Mystery

While calling the renewed search "a dream," Acapulco insisted on really finding the image, "no matter what."

Throughout the years, the loss had been rather mysterious for the townsfolk until the present campaign was launched. Mystery, however, continues to shroud the efforts.

Asked what the leads pursued by authorities during that time were, Acapulco simply replied: "There are truths that are better left unsaid."

In a resolution passed unanimously, the city council urged the National Historical Institute and the National Bureau of Investigation to aid the local government in the search.

Councilor Irene Luansing Jr., who authored the resolution, said the local government wanted to find the image, which was once part of the Spanish fort, as the garrison would be marking its 250th year by 2006. The fort was constructed in 1756.

Councilor Simplicia Neri, chair of the tourism committee, said the restoration of the relic was important for the city's push to develop as a historical and cultural destination.

Most likely, the ancient relic is now in the possession of antique collectors, said Luansing.

A replica of the image was created upon commission of the local Catholic church and is encased in concrete and glass at a small foreground park in front of the cathedral.

In an article several years ago, Bernad said he had sought the help of then Philippine Constabulary chief Fidel Ramos, but nothing had come out of it.

"We might also have to involve the foreign affairs department as the stolen image might have been sold abroad," said Luansing.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 22, 2004
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Is 66:18-21

The Lord says this, "Now I am going to gather the nations of every tongue, and they will witness my glory, for I will perform a wonderful thing among them. Then I will send some of their survivors to the nations—Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moscheck, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan—to the distant islands where no one has ever heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations. They will bring your brothers from all the nations as an offering to Yahweh on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on camels to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says Yahweh, just as the Israelites bring oblations in clean vessels to the house of Yahweh. Then I will choose priests and Levites even from them, says Yahweh.

2nd Reading: Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

Do not forget the comforting words that Wisdom addresses to you as children: My son, pay attention when the Lord corrects you and do not be discouraged when he punishes you. For the Lord corrects those he loves and chastises everyone he accepts as a son.

What you endure is in order to correct you. God treats you like sons and what son is not corrected by his father? All correction is painful at the moment, rather than pleasant; later it brings the fruit of peace, that is, holiness to those who have been trained by it.

Lift up, then, your drooping hands, and strengthen your trembling knees; make level the ways for your feet, so that the lame may not be disabled, but healed.

Gospel: Lk 13:22-30

Jesus went through towns and villages teaching and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, is it true that few people will be saved?"

And Jesus answered, "Do your best to enter by the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you will stand outside; then you will knock at the door calling: 'Lord, open to us.' But he will say to you: 'I do not know where you come from.'

"Then you will say: We ate and drank with you and you taught in our streets! But he will reply: 'I don't know where you come from. Away from me all you workers of evil.'

"You will weep and grind your teeth when you see Abraham and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves left outside. Others will sit at table in the kingdom of God, people coming from east and west, from north and south. Some who are among the last will be the first, and others who were first will be last!"

Commentary

HANS Urs von Balthasar, one of the greatest of 20th-century theologians, wrote a book entitled "Dare we hope that all will be saved?" His answer, in brief, was that we not only dare to hope, but we are obliged to hope, that all will be saved. St. Augustine, he said, was the first Christian writer to claim that he knew there were people in hell. Before his time (5th century) no Christian writer ever claimed to know that there were people in hell. This may be news to some, since we inherited the medieval view that only a minority would be saved. Von Balthasar concluded: if you say you know there are people in hell, you are saying more than you know; if you say you know there is no one in hell, you are likewise saying more than you know. That is how it rests. We don't know, but we hope.

Notice that in today's reading, Jesus did not answer the question, "Is it true that few people will be saved?" It may have been this text that set the early custom of not trying to answer it. Among the medievals, Julian of Norwich was exceptional in her insistence on leaving such questions unanswered. There are two aspects to revealed truth, she said. The first is what we know of "our Savior and our salvation." This is "open and clear, lovely and light, and plentiful." The other is "our Lord's secret counsel (privy councell)," and we should not "pry into those secrets (not to wel wetyn his conselye)." We must "always avoid dwelling on what the last deed of God will be," she wrote. God gives us everything needed for our salvation, it seems, and statistics are no part of that.

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Cherry Hills survivors: 5 years after

By Luige del Puerto

A MOMENTARY shudder creeps into the hearts of Cherry Hills residents whenever the winds howl or when heavy rains pour longer than expected.

But it remains just that—a shudder and a thought about a tragedy that had deeply scarred this Antipolo City community on Aug. 3, 1999 when their houses toppled down after four days of driving rain.

Today, residents ignore the heap of rubble that occupies a sizable chunk east of the subdivision. On the pile of cement and rock once stood their homes.

"We don't think much about it, not unless it rains hard for days," said Rose Fuentes, 53.

Her home lies at the foot of the mound, serving as a warning to visitors that this is as far as one can go. Beyond this house lies another world.

But living close to where 59 neighbors died does not bother Fuentes, who moved back to the subdivision with other residents in February this year.

Neither she, nor her neighbors, have ghost stories to tell, tales that usually hound places of violent, sudden death. No dogs howl in the dead of night, no sightings of angry souls wandering around are reported.

Except for the eerie presence of the mound, Cherry Hills could have been any other subdivision. Children tug at the skirts of mothers who regularly walk them to school. Housewives wash clothes and cook, husbands come home.

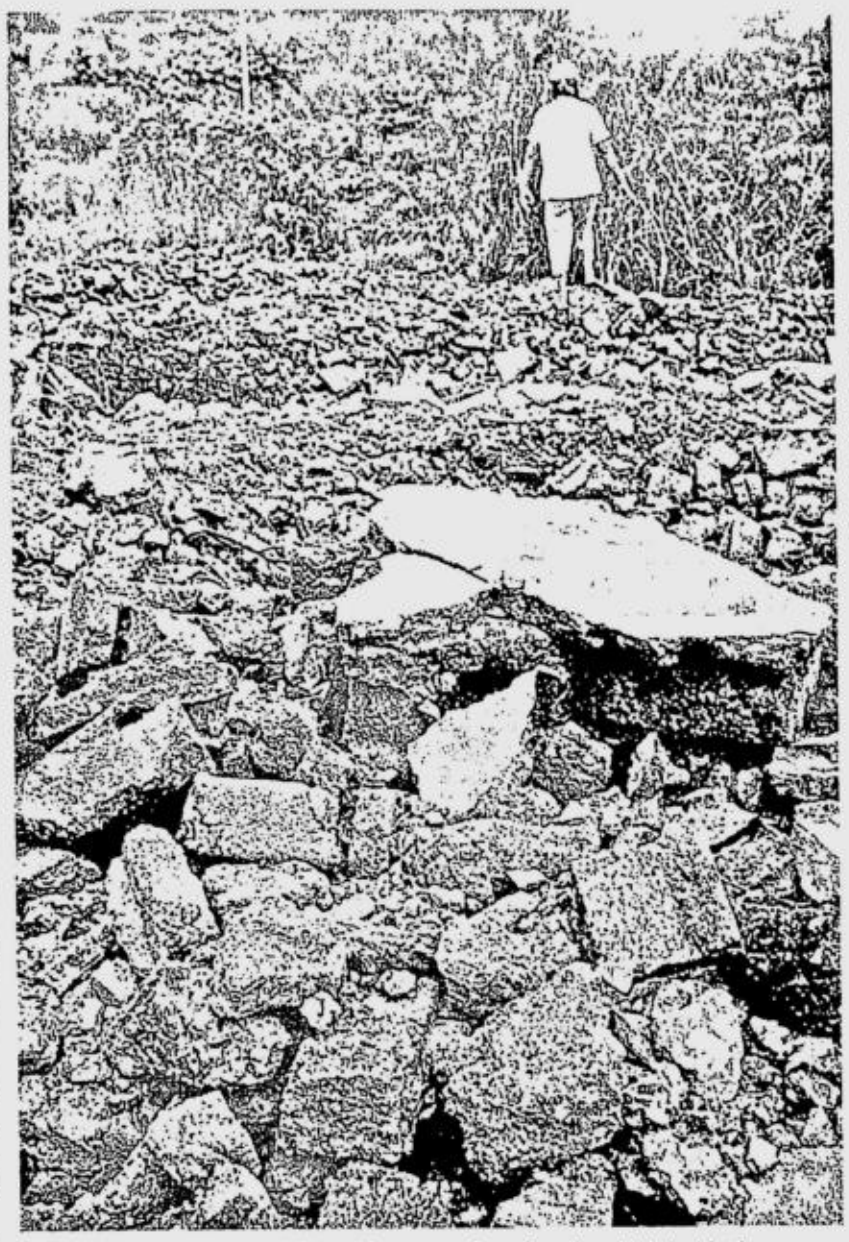
But Cherry Hills remains a condemned property. A Malacañang investigation had earlier concluded that the subdivision is vulnerable to landslides, and is therefore unfit as a housing area.

Despite the threat, Hernando and Alma Talavera are trying to rebuild their lives. Their house on Jasmin Street is one of many homes buried under the rubble.

Minutes before the avalanche, Hernando hurriedly left his home, urging other families to vacate their houses. "I was running, with the ground collapsing behind me," he recalled. With his wife and three children, Hernando fled to safer ground, but lost everything else the family owned.

More than 300 houses were buried in the avalanche. Only 60 homes stood after the tragedy.

The Talaveras transferred to Binangonan, Rizal, but returned to Cherry Hills the following year, renting a house on Bougainvilla Street.



BURIED houses of Cherry Hills residents remain under the rubble inside the Antipolo City subdivision where 59 persons lost their lives. PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

"We came back hoping to redeem a promise made to us," he said.

The Talaveras were among the survivors of the tragedy who dropped their suit against Hiroshi Ogawa, the Japanese general manager of Philjas Corp., developer of Cherry Hills.

Hernando said Ogawa had promised him a house once the court cases are settled. He is hanging on because he has little choice, Hernando said. "I don't know when that day would come," he added. "We have nowhere else to go."

He used to drive an FX taxi, but now does odd jobs.

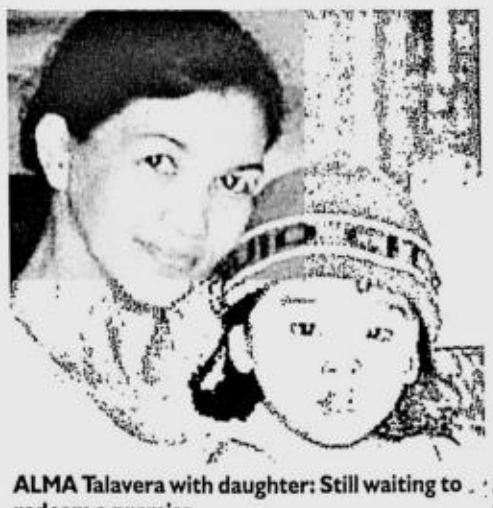
Inside their two-bedroom apartment, Hernando sounds—and looks cheerful. Cracks on the wall are evident in the poorly-furnished house, grim mementos of the tragedy.

"I just wish the case would be settled soon," he said, referring to the civil, administrative and criminal charges residents filed against Philjas in the Antipolo Regional Trial Court, where the case is still pending.

In 1999, Philjas gave each family P15,000, and another P10,000 for those who lost a loved one in the landslide.

Like Hernando, Jun Butial, the former head of a group formed by survivors to consolidate their suit, hopes the case is settled soon.

PERLA de Guzman: "Life has to go on."



ALMA Talavera with daughter: Still waiting to redeem a promise

ROWENA and Jun Butial: Starting over with sewing machines retrieved from ruins

Butial blames the justice system for the delay. "Our justice system is not just slow, it's awful, " he said.

Butial and his wife Rowena are still teary-eyed when they recall the night that changed their lives. Although they did not lose anyone in the avalanche, questions of what life could have been often enter their minds.

The couple now live in a 25-square meter apartment inside the Sta. Maria Subdivision, an hour's drive from Cherry Hills. Their old home was on a lot almost five times its present size.

Many survivors still find it painful to look back. But they have since picked up the pieces, believing that there is plenty of room for second chances.

The Butials, for one, have repaired four sewing machines that were retrieved from the ruins. The family once owned seven sewing machines.

"I make curtains and take up other sewing orders," Rowena told the INQUIRER from their new home at the Sta. Maria Subdivision in Antipolo City. "It's not much, but it helps pay the bills."

The cool breeze and fresh air are the attractions at Sta. Maria, a suburban sprawl close to Cherry Hills where more than 15 families like the Butials, have transplanted their roots.

Butial said the only thing to do was to look forward, especially now that they have a 5-year-old son.

Across the street from the Butials lives Perla De Guzman. Her family lost two houses and a "sari-sari" (variety) store in Cherry Hills, where they once led a middle-class, prosperous life.

"It was zero after. We had to start from scratch," said De Guzman, who now tends a small store at Sta. Maria.

Like many of her neighbors, De Guzman found it difficult to move on after the tragedy. Two of her siblings also lost their homes in Cherry Hills. This meant she had no one else to turn to.

"I'm lucky my four children have been able to graduate from college. They are a great help," she said.

De Guzman misses her old home. But she smiles easily now.

"*Nakakaraos na rin kami* (We have managed to pull through)," she said. "My children always tell me, 'Ma, stop going back to the past. You have to move on'," she said.

"I guess they are right," De Guzman said. "Life has to go on."

A sanctuary opens for studes in U-Belt

By Leila B. Salaverria

UNIVERSITY Belt students now have a place to call their own.

On R. Papa Extension, hanging out or loitering after school or between classes is welcome.

The stretch of road between Sergio Loyola and Nicanor Reyes is the latest addition to the pedestrianization project of the City of Manila.

Mayor Lito Atienza inaugurated the street yesterday and dedicated it to the students as part of the activities commemorating the 21st death anniversary of Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.

Atienza said Aquino had been an advocate of democratizing education and improving its quality.

"(Ninoy's) statement that education is a key to rising from poverty is as valid today as when he said it several decades ago," the mayor declared.

Aquino, the key political rival of former President Ferdinand Marcos, was assassinated in 1983 while returning to the country from exile in the United States.

His murder sparked a series of events that led to the ouster of Marcos in 1986.

R. Papa has been declared off limits to vehicles and laid over with red and yellow bricks.

More inviting

Benches, street lamps and potted plants have also been set up to make the area more inviting to promenaders.

The pedestrianized stretch of road is expected to draw crowds of students, being a stone's throw away from the Far Eastern University, the University of the East, San Beda College, Centro Escolar University, the San Sebastian College and the University of Sto. Tomas.

Aside from being within walking distance from the schools, R. Papa is also lined with dormitories, Internet cafes and other stores that cater to the student population.

To truly make the street a sanctuary for students, Atienza promised to rid the area of thieves and robbers.

The mayor has been spearheading projects that turn little-used roads into promenades to attract crowds and to spur business along the pedestrianized areas.

Probably the most successful of these projects is the transformation of the Manila Bay boardwalk, which is now brick-paved and dotted with restaurants. Known as the Baywalk, it has been steadily attracting late afternoon and night time throngs of people.

The Baywalk crowd is usually regaled by the famed sunset and, later in the night, enlivened by bands and other entertainers.

Not as successful

The other pedestrianized road, a stretch of Rizal Avenue from C.M. Recto to the corner of Carriedo Street, has not been as successful, however.

Atienza said yesterday that he expected the pedestrianization projects to revive business and provide jobs.

He added that the rise in job opportunities would mean that Filipinos would lead better lives, no matter how many they are.

His statements were a dig at a proposal to limit couples to two children.

Atienza, a staunch pro-life advocate, criticized the proposal and said that the government should instead provide jobs for Filipinos.

Also, as part of the education-oriented program, Atienza yesterday formally opened the Manila-Sacramento Friendship Library at the corner of Canonigo and Zamora Streets in Paco.

MANDALUYONG PROJECT

24-hour water service for residents

By Luige A. del Puerto

PROGRESS comes at a price.

In the next three years, Mandaluyong City residents would slowly begin to experience improved water service.

Where water used to flow only at certain hours of the day, faucets would become useful round the clock.

In at least two subdivisions where leaks on old pipes drain the pressure leading to homes, water service will be improved.

All these would be the result of a three-year expansion and rehabilitation project of the Manila Water Company in Mandaluyong.

Sacrifice first

But before satisfaction, sacrifice. And Mayor Neptali "Boyet" Gonzales II knows this all too well.

That was why Gonzales apologized in advance yesterday to Mandaluyong residents who would be affected by road diggings needed for Manila Water to lay new pipes or to replace old ones.

"I am apologizing in advance to residents. Please bear with us," the mayor said.

Anyway, he said before reporters, "This is for the residents."

Nearly all of Mandaluyong residents have running water. But not all have it 24 hours.

The new pipes would help ensure that every family in the city would have water every time they turn on the tap.

By improving its delivery of water to Mandaluyong folk, Gonzales said Manila Water was hoping to raise its revenue collection in the city.

But while the project was a win-win for everybody, the mayor laid down certain rules to help ease any inconvenience that may arise from the project.

First off, diggings on major highways, such as General Kalentong Street or Shaw Boulevard, must be done on a staggered basis. That is, only 50 meters of the road could be dug at a given time.

Also, diggings must be done only at night.

Motorists' convenience

Gonzales said this would help ease the impact of the diggings on motorists, who are expected to be worst affected by the diggings.

The mayor added that traffic congestion would be inevitable in spite of the construction regulations that the city would impose.

Manila Water, the Ayala firm handling water concession in the East Zone of Metro Manila, is in the middle of a major pipe laying project.

In Marikina City, the diggings began early last year.

As a trade off, Gonzales has asked for several concessions from the water firm.

Calling them "bargains," Gonzales said these included Manila Water shouldering part of the cost in the repair of old pipes in subdivisions in the city.

"I said, okay, we will approve these projects, but we must ask for something in return," Gonzales said.

Manila Water has agreed to fix pipes in at least two Mandaluyong subdivisions, the mayor said.

Gonzales explained that the rationale behind the concessions was simple: "In the end, (Manila Water) would earn from it, not the city government."

But Manila Water is not only concerned with delivering better water service.

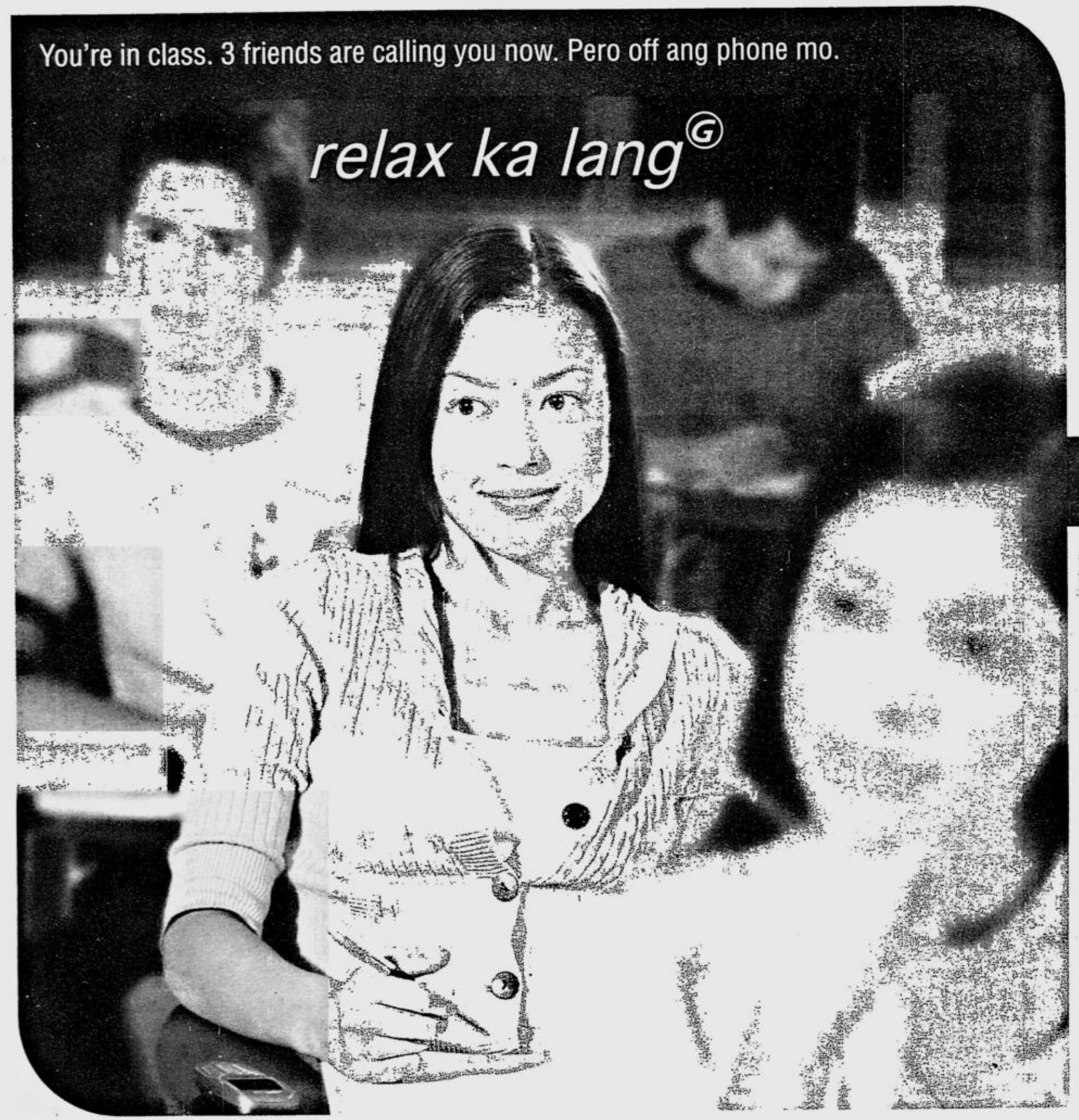
Livelihood opportunities

Last month, Manila Water launched its "Kabuhayan sa Barangay" program at the Makaturing compound in the city.

For the program, the water firm provided P200,000 as seed capital to housewives and young people to start their own small businesses.

Each beneficiary was entitled to a P5,000 loan under a pilot livelihood program.

There are about 20 beneficiaries of the program in the city to date.



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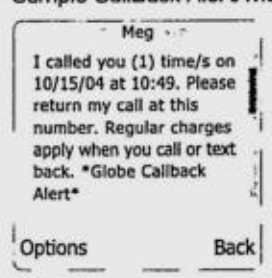

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SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

RP bets better this time

Officials still cling to faint hopes of a medal

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—With ten athletes relegated to being mere spectators and cheerleaders, the Philippines is down to its last six men halfway through the 28th Olympic Games here.

The Filipinos so far have nothing to show in the medal standings after eight days of the Games, but sports officials are confident they have surpassed the Filipinos' modest accomplishment in the Sydney Games four years ago.

With three Philippine records serving as a consolation for a disappointing performance in swimming at the Olympic Aquatic and the sensational first-round victory of Jasmin Figueroa in archery, the Filipinos have something to crow about.

"I think we've surpassed our performance in Sydney," said Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee Friday night.

Eric Buhain, chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission, said he remained optimistic that the Philippine delegation would still win a medal in the Games, pointing to flyweight boxer Harry Tañamor as a big possibility.

Of the four Filipino boxers who qualified for Athens, Tañamor is the only survivor so far. He was to fight Korea's Hong Moo Won in the second round Saturday night (early Sunday morning in Manila) at the Peristeri Olympic Boxing Hall.

Realistic shot

Boxing has been the traditional source of medals for the Philippines since it joined the Olympic movement in the 1924 Games in Paris. And Tañamor is still the best—and last—realistic shot at a medal in Athens.

Faint hopes are entertained in taekwondo where three Filipinos are scheduled to see action starting Thursday, but little is expected, except perhaps a Philippine record, from Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito, who will see action on Wednesday in the women's long jump.

Long distance runner Eduardo Buenavista is set to compete in the marathon on Aug. 29, the last day of the Athens Olympiad. But he stands absolutely no chance at all of finishing with a medal—unless the rest of the field wilts in the hot and humid Greek summer and the hilly route from Marathon to the ancient Parathinaiko Stadium in Athens.

"We hope to come up with a medal performance in taekwondo," Dayrit said as he assessed the Philippine performance so far in the Games.

"Let's also hope Lerma sets a new Philippine record in long jump."

Citing the performance of Figueroa in

RP OLYMPIANS/ A26

Phelps grabs 4th gold medal /A29

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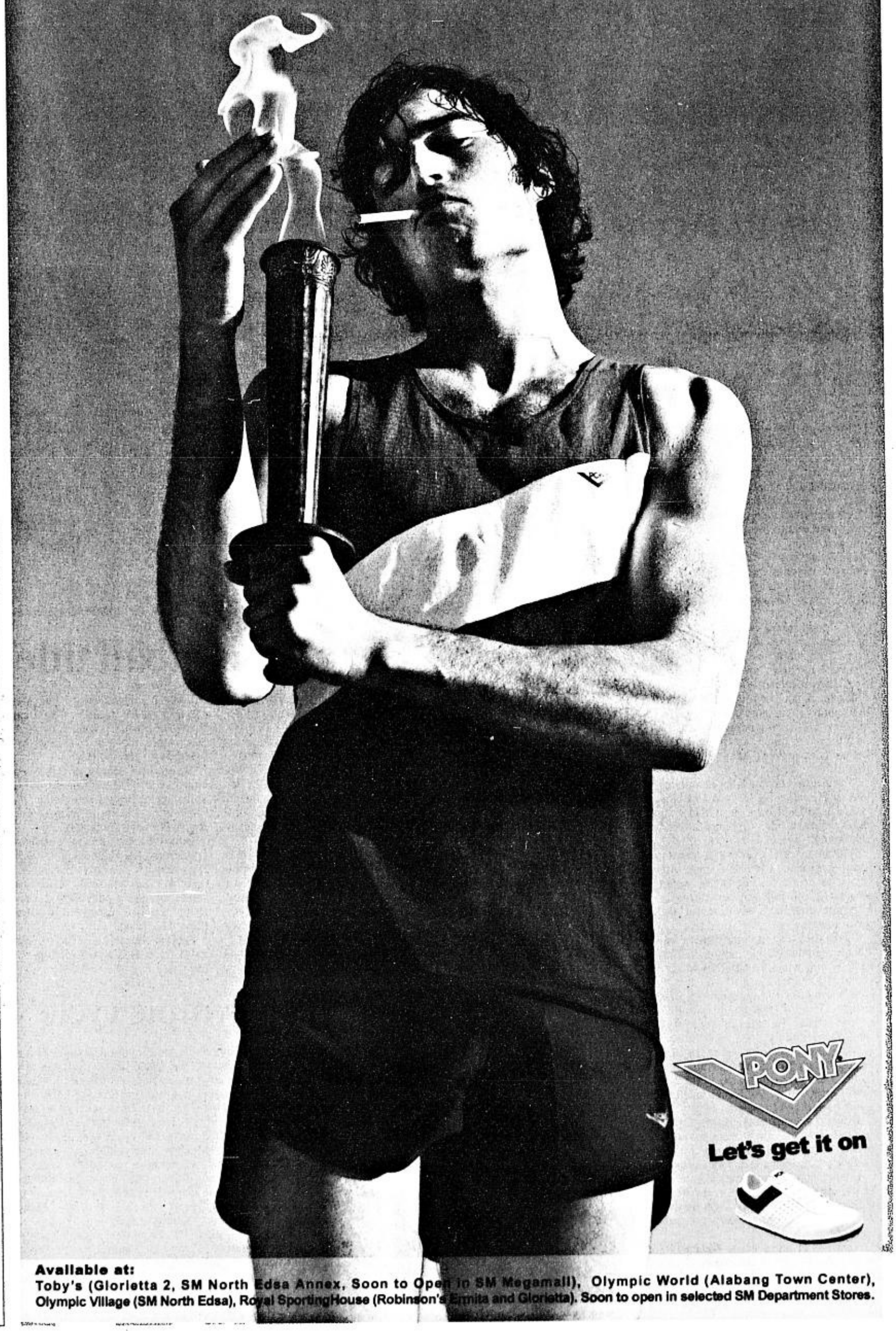

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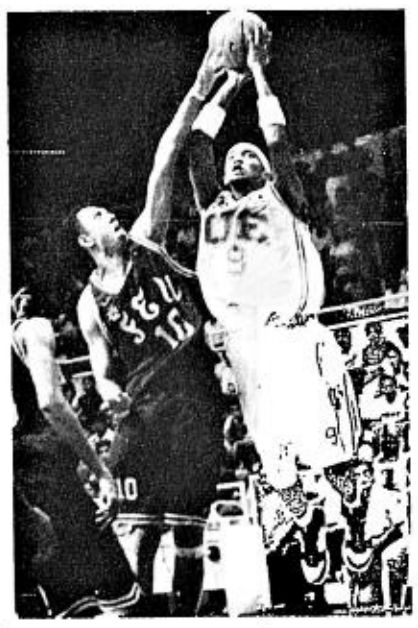
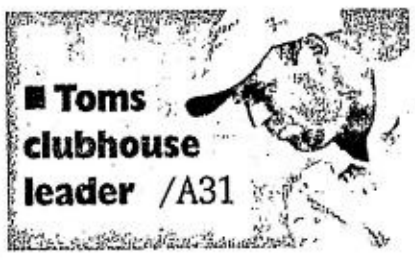
■ Figueroa deserves an incentive–Dayrit /A26



■ Tamaraws nip UE; NU wins at last /A30



■ Toms clubhouse leader /A31

RP Olympians better this time

From page A25

archery, Dayrit said the Philippines should look at the vast potentials of being a wild card entry.

"Wild cards are not a token participation, as Jasmin has shown," the POC president said. "A wild card means that, while you didn't make it in the Olympic qualifying, the international federation recognizes your record."

Deadly aim

Figueroa, the 19-year-old archer with the innocent smile, deadly aim and nerves of steel, stunned the archery world when she upset former world champion Natalia Valeeva of Italy in the first round of the women's individual competition in Panathinaiko.

The upset win made Figueroa, who was not even the country's top archer until she received a wild card to complete the 64-woman field in women's archery, the toast of the archery competitions.

It also gave her enough confidence and poise for a creditable performance against Spain's Almudena Gallardo in the second round, which she lost by two points, 150-152. A victory would have placed the diminutive Filipina in the quarterfinals and the top 16 of the Games.

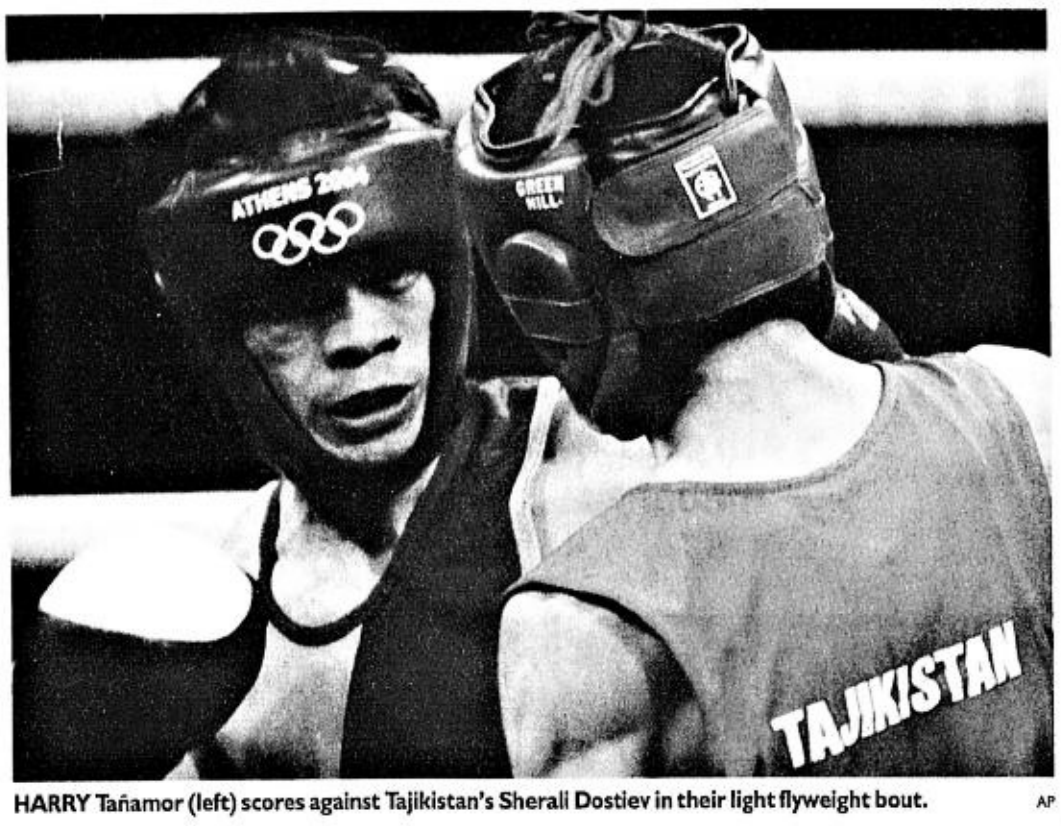
Modest goal

She wound up 27th place overall, which more than surpassed her modest goal of improving the 58th place finish of the erstwhile queen of Philippine archery, Jennifer Chan, in the Sydney Olympics.

It was a performance better than any other archer achieved in the Olympic Games. Francisco Naranjilla, long-time men's Philippine champion, was 37th in the 1972 Olympics in Munich.

"Jasmin's performance is an eye opener on the potential of archery as a sport," Dayrit said.

Figueroa said she had learned valuable lessons from her Olympic experience and that she hopes to use them as she looks forward to the next Olympics in Beijing. By that time, she will be the woman to watch.



HARRY Tañamor (left) scores against Tajikistan's Sherali Dostiev in their light flyweight bout. AP

SAMSUNG

Shooter Jethro Dionisio had a good start but faded in the end to finish 32nd of 35 entries in trap shooting, an event he picked up only four years ago after making his mark as former world champion with the pistol in practical shooting.

Swimming produced mediocre results, except for the Philippine record performances of Miguel Molina and Jaclyn Pangilinan. However, officials, including former Olympic swimmer and Philippine Sports Commission chairman Eric Buhain, see the six-man team as the nucleus of the Philippine team that will campaign in next year's Southeast Asian Games.

Powerhouse

Buhain said the Olympic exposure was a "coming-out party" for the youthful and "blooming" Philippine team to the SEA Games next year.

The six Filipino swimmers entered here have an average age of 19 and a half years.

"It's going to be a powerhouse team," said Buhain as swimming competitions ended.

Harvard-bound Fil-Am swimmer Pangilinan accounted for two national records, clocking 1:12:47 in the women's 100-meter breaststroke and 2:33.38 in the 200-m breaststroke. The 19-year-old New Jersey-based daughter of a Filipino father and a Syrian mother owned the two old records, which were slower than her personal bests.

The 20-year-old Molina timed 2:19.19 in the men's 200 breaststroke to sink the 12-year-old record of Lee Concepcion of 2:20.37.

Disappointing

Raphael "Timmy" Chua and another Fil-Am, James Bernard Walsh, fared badly in their only events, the 100-m breaststroke and the 200-m butterfly, respectively.

Most disappointed was Miguel Mendoza, who closed out the Philippine participation in Olympic swimming Friday with a poor swim in the 1500 m, where he finished dead last in his heat and dead last overall among 34 entries.

He clocked 16 minutes and 26.52 seconds—way off his personal best of 15:49.55 and the Southeast Asian Games record of 15:43.27.

"No excuses," said the 22-year-old Mendoza, the only swimmer in the team with Olympic experience. "I was feeling good until I hit the water. And then everything went wrong."

Aside from Tañamor, light welterweight Romeo Brin was the only Filipino boxer to get past the first round.

Casualties

Middleweight Christopher Camat was the first to go, losing on points in his first round assignment against Russia's Gaybek Gaydarbekov on Saturday. Flyweight Violito Payla went out next, losing to Uzbekistan's Tulashboy Doniyorov on Tuesday.

Light welterweight Romeo Brin, the Philippine flag bearer during the opening ceremonies on Aug. 13, won his first fight over Patrick Bogere of Sweden on Sunday. But he crashed out Thursday night when he lost to Thailand's Manus Boonjomnong in the second round.

Left to carry the Philippine banner is the lightest of the Filipino boxers, Tañamor, who was to fight the dangerous Korean Saturday night.

"We will fight to the last man," Dayrit said.

Officials looking ahead to '05 SEAG

ATHENS—It will be another week before the Olympic flame is extinguished from the Olympic Stadium here, but Philippine sports officials are already looking 15 months ahead for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games in Manila.

It's all systems go, according to the man who heads the organizing committee for the SEA Games. Especially with outgoing Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan staying on as honorary chairman of the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc).

"It's good news," said Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee and of the Philsoc of Pagdanganan's retention as his counterpart from the government.

Pagdanganan was with the Philippine delegation which marched during the opening ceremony here on Aug. 13, but he returned to Manila to the news that he had been replaced as tourism secretary.

"We know him as a sports-minded person. His visit here was a big inspiration to us and it gave him insight into the organization of the Olympic Games," Dayrit said.

Philsoc is registered as a private group organizing the SEA Games with Dayrit as president, but Pagdanganan was invited to join the committee as honorary chairman to represent the government.

Dayrit said that the government has the sole responsibility of organizing the SEA Games, which is expected to cost close to P1 billion.

"On behalf of the government, Pagdanganan will oversee the preparation of the Games. We will be supporting him," Dayrit said.

With 15 months to go before the SEA Games, which is scheduled to start Nov. 27, Dayrit said there's more than enough time to prepare and renovate facilities which need to be renovated.

He said some facilities, like the Cuneta Astrodome and the venues for such events as bowling and billiards, are already existing and need no renovation.

He said he would propose the holding of the opening ceremonies at the Rizal Park to eliminate the need for extensive renovations on the Rizal Memorial track oval.

A total of 11 countries are expected to participate in at least 34 events in the Games, which the country hosted in 1981 and 1991. It was last held in Vietnam last December. *Artemio T. Engracia Jr.*

Figueroa deserves an incentive–Dayrit

ATHENS—Jasmin Figueroa is bound for home to the accolade she deserves after her fine performance in the archery competition of the Olympic Games here.

There may be no red carpet homecoming or a ticker tape parade, but sports officials are thinking of granting her special incentives for her feat in the Games, where she eliminated former world champion Natalia Valeeva of Italy in the first round of the women's individual competition.

"She's done us proud and she deserves an incentive," said Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Steve Hontiveros, chef de mission of the Philippine delegation, said Figueroa had the attitude that deserved to be emulated by all other Filipino athletes.

The day after she lost her second-round match to Spain's Almudena Gallardo, she was back at the archery practice range.

"She was still practicing this morning," Hontiveros said Friday night.

Figueroa is leaving for home on Monday along with her coach, Henry Manalang, swimmer Raphael Chua, swimming coach Anthony Lozada and swimming leader Chito Rivera, secretary general of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association.

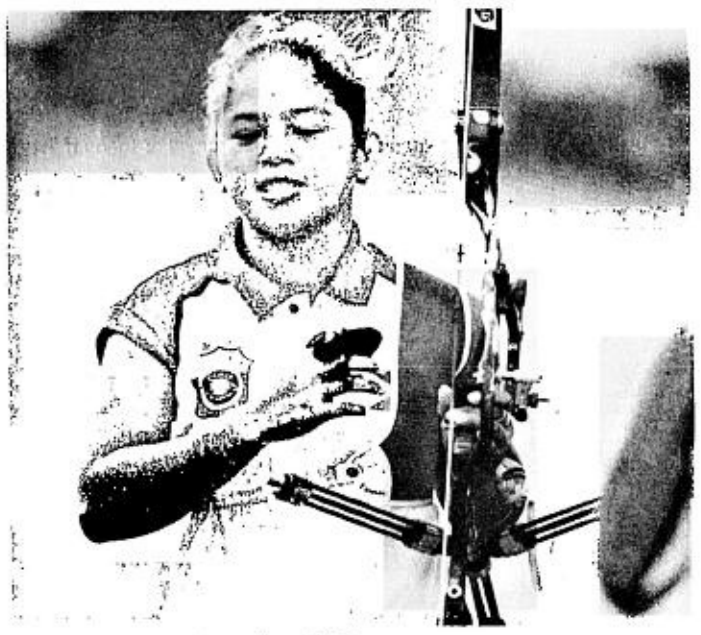
Shooter Jethro Dionisio, coach Ramon Corral and shooting leader Art Macapagal have earlier left for Manila.

Eric Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, the government body that finances athletes' training, said Figueroa's feat deserved an incentive, which he would recommend to the PSC board upon his return from Athens.

"What Jasmin has done is remarkable. She boosted the entire Philippine delegation's morale," Buhain said.

Buhain said the PSC has certain policies governing incentives for athletes' performances with emphasis on medal winners of the Olympics, the Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games. That means Figueroa, who did not win an Olympic medal, does not qualify.

"But definitely, she deserves it. And definitely, I will sponsor it to the PSC board," Buhain said. *Artemio T. Engracia Jr.*



FIGUEROA: Surprise package in Greece AFP

NCR blasts Davao for football title

THE NATIONAL Capital Region, using a fierce counterattack led by strikers Amanda Fernandez and Pamela Bravo, trounced Davao, 3-0, late Friday to capture the First PFF-SuperFerry National Under-19 Women's Football Championship at the Marikina City Sports Center.

Fernandez scored on a penalty in the 16th minute, and added another goal just before halftime to put the Big City girls in control. Bravo then struck in the 52nd to seal the outcome in the event co-organized by the Philippine Football Federation and the Marikina City Football Association headed by Chuck Real.

Earlier, Laguna nipped Negros Occidental in a shootout, 5-4, after a 1-1 deadlock in regulation to take third place in the week-long tournament backed by SuperFerry, Marikina Mayor Marides C. Fernando and the city government.

A lively crowd of 5,000 witnessed the finals, including Philippine Sports Commission officer-in-charge William "Butch" Ramirez, Marikina City Rep. Del de Guzman, PFF president Johnny Romualdez and deputy general secretary Domeka Garamendi and other government and football officials.

NCR, powered by the core of De La Salle University and handled by veteran coach Hans Smit, also took home most of the individual awards in the tourney supported by PFF partners Adidas, Red Ribbon Bakeshop, Petron, Unicef, New Pagcor and Aboitiz Express.

Bravo was named the event's best striker, while teammate and central midfielder Camara Issa got the Most Valuable Player award. NCR's Diana Rose Redondo and Angelica Chan were also named the best goalkeeper and best defender, respectively.

Herlyn Mae Salmon, of Davao was hailed as the Best Midfielder, and the entire Laguna troop was given the Chris Monfort Fair Play Award in honor of the former PFF secretary general.

Other officials present were Marikina Councilors Lea Carlos and Bojie Bernardino, SuperFerry communications manager Judd Salas, Adidas marketing manager Goody Custodio and Laguna Football Association president Edward Magallona.

Football observers included Croatian coach Bojan Hodak, who is based in Malaysia.

C. de Oro cagers nip Cardinals

CAGAYAN DE ORO—The long wait for the Cagayan de Oro Stars finally ended Friday night.

With Julius Navales scoring big baskets and newcomer Elvis Tolentino providing the endgame poise, the Stars shaded the Baguio Cardinals, 23-87, in overtime to snap a six-game losing streak in the NBC (National Basketball Conference) finals here.

Playing in front of thrilled fans at the packed Xavier University gym, Navales had seven of his team-high 23 points in the extra period while Tolentino had a key rebound and scored Cagayan's last four points in pulling off the overtime triumph.

In contrast, the visiting Cardinals of University of Baguio president Des Bautista took their fourth straight loss, including three in their southern tour, in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Supercat, Skygo Motorcycles, Trans Asia, Accel and Molten.

"Finally we won. It was definitely a long wait but we deserve this win. We earned it the hard way," said Stars coach Andy Calingin, whose wards nearly blew a 12-point lead in the first half of the close match.

The home squad was able to pull it off despite the disqualification of slotman Jove Sese with 7:50 to go for shouting invectives and pointing a finger at the referee in contesting a call.

Catch the NBC games on Prime Channel every Monday (8 a.m.), Friday (8 a.m. and 2 p.m.), Saturday (1 p.m.) and Sunday (9 a.m. and 7 p.m.).

THOMSON: Swimmer, official, volunteer PDI PHOTO

Akiko 'Olympic cycle'

ATHENS—Former Filipino Olympic swimmer Akiko Thomson believes she has already completed an "Olympic cycle" after serving as a volunteer in the Athens Games here.

"I was a swimming competitor before, an official four year ago in Sydney and now I served as a volunteer," says Akiko when she visited the athletes and officials at the Olympic Village here recently.

Her experience this time, Akiko recalls, "is just as exciting when I was a swimmer because I met a lot of people and developed new friends."

The well-known ex-athlete, who works with CAP (College Assurance Plan) back home, did different chores for the organizers at the Oaka (main stadium). She was scheduled to leave for Manila via New York Saturday after completing her contract with Athoc.

While here, she also took time to get in touch with sports officials like Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso L. Dayrit, PSC chair Eric Buhain, chef de mission Steve Hontiveros and finance director Benjie Ramos.

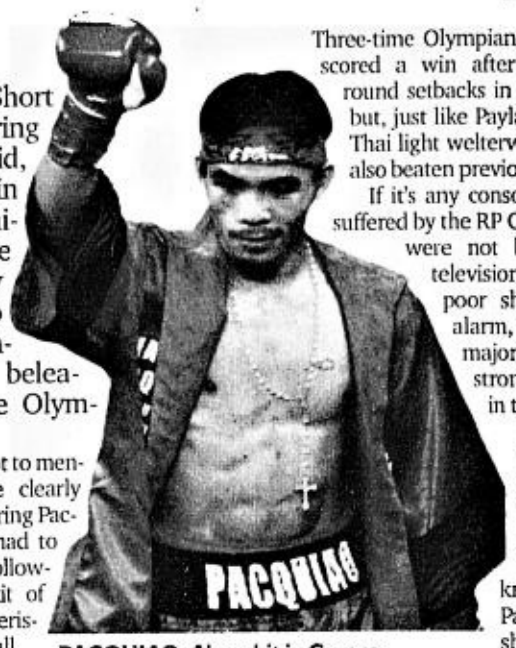
She also went out of her way to go to the Persiteri Hall and cheer light welterweight Romeo Brin in his losing stand against Thailand's Manus Boonjumnong.

"It broke my heart when I saw our fighter beaten," Akiko recalls.

DESPERATE PLEA

Send in Pacquiao, demand Pinoys

By Recah Trinidad



PACQUIAO: Also a hit in Greece

ATHENS—Short of imploring divine aid, Filipino workers in this sunny, dignified capital are wondering why Manny Pacquiao has not been included in the beleaguered Philippine Olympic boxing team.

Pity and concern, not to mention frustration, have clearly taken the better of adoring Pacquiao fans who also had to roll with the punches following the successive exit of Filipino boxers at the Peristeri Olympic Boxing Hall.

Pacquiao, a prizefighter, is not qualified to box here because professional boxers are banned from the Olympics, the *kababayan* workers were told.

They shook their heads in humble submission.

What would however surface in their blind demand for Pacquiao to do battle against amateurs in the Olympic program was the feeling that the best of our amateur boxers are not here.

Welterweight Chris Camat and flyweight Violito Payla may not be exactly mediocre, but their poor stand here spoke volumes of how the weak RP amateur boxing program has to continue playing a catch-up game in a feeble bid to be at par with the world.

Camat, lost and tentative, was massacred by a Russian ring stalwart in his opening bout.

Payla jumped in blindly and slammed his way to a humiliating upset, capped by a fall in the second round, against an Uzbek aspirant whom he had dominated in two previous tournaments.

Three-time Olympian Romeo Brin finally scored a win after back-to-back first-round setbacks in Atlanta and Sydney but, just like Payla, got humbled by a Thai light welterweight whom he had also beaten previously.

If it's any consolation, the setbacks suffered by the RP Olympic boxing team were not beamed on Athens television, but news of the poor showing had caused alarm, if not shame, among majority in the 50,000-strong Pinoy work force in this nation.

Hermi Bravo, a hardy expat who drives the NBN crew around, swore his friends were one in demanding that a knockout fighter of Pacquiao's caliber should've been sent here.

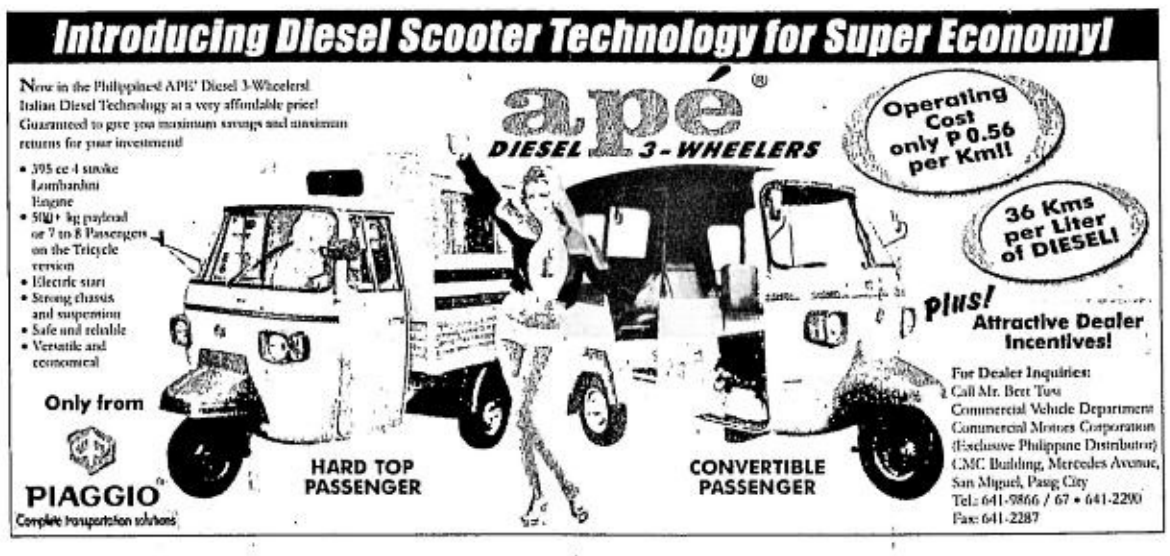
Told that a knockdown merits only a single point in Olympic scoring, he retreated doubly perplexed.

NBN liaison officer Manny de Asis said Pinoy workers he had met in the subway station were one in saying Pacquiao was needed to shore up the four-man RP team which had been left only with light flyweight Harry Tañamor as of Saturday.

Indeed, great expectations were pinned on the RP boxing team, although its failure to qualify in three light divisions—bantamweight, featherweight, lightweight—was a clear manifestation of inferior scouting and development.

If Tañamor had succeeded over his peppery Korean foe, the blind clamor for a Pacquiao stint here should, more or less, die down.

There would be prayers for the veteran internationalist from Zamboanga, who turned 27 on Friday and was earlier picked to win a medal here by Sports Illustrated, to go all the way.



SPORTSWATCH

Pastor brothers shine in Beijing

ENZO Pastor came through with a breakthrough performance during the Beijing leg of the 2004 Asian Formula 3 series making it to the podium with a brave second-place finish in Race 6 after a hard-fought fifth place in Race 5 at the Goldenport Circuit in Beijing last Aug. 15. The 2002 Formula Renault champion and Formula One candidate now driving for Fujitsu Ten Team Tom's Petron and sponsored by the Department of Tourism, Petron, Bench, Boysen McGills, and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office started fifth in Race 6 and slowly rose up the field until he found himself behind Richard Joson going into the final lap of the race. A brave lunge at the final hairpin saw Enzo go past Joson to claim third behind Mark Goddard and John O'Hara. However, race winner O'Hara was disqualified by race stewards for causing a collision with Christian Jones at the start of the race which made Goddard the winner with Enzo taking a well-deserved second. Enzo started fourth on the grind in Race 5 after surprising the field during Saturday practice by being the quickest Filipino in the tough regional Formula 3 competition among 16 drivers from Asia, Europe and the US.

Richard Bates 7-stag derby set

THE "ANNUAL Richard Bates 7-Stag Derby," a perennial crowd-drawer, is all set on Wednesday and Friday, Aug. 25 and 27, at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit, with Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Mite Free as sponsors. Veteran Richard Bates, a byword in local and international cockfighting circuits, will host this blockbuster event. Submission of weights is on Tuesday, Aug. 24, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Pasay City Cockpit office. Interested parties may call 8431890, 8431746 and 8166750 for details. Up for grabs is a cash prize of P500,000 with a P15,000 entry fee. Three Bates trio will be raffled off to paying patrons on each day of the event. Meanwhile, 4-stag derbies are also scheduled at PCC on Sept. 3 (Tony Faustino), Sept. 10 (Arnold Mendoza) and Sept. 17 (Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association).

Bengay badminton tourney next month

LET the badminton games begin. Bengay, the trusted brand from Pfizer Consumer Healthcare that provides hours of penetrating pain relief, is inviting badminton aficionados to join the 1st Bengay Badminton Showdown this September. The Bengay Badminton Showdown is a non-ranking badminton tournament open only to badminton enthusiasts and non-professional players. At stake are prestigious titles, trophies and cash prizes totaling over P200,000. The competitions are in partnership with Philippine Badminton Association. Headed by former First Lady Amelita Ramos, the PBA is duly recognized by the International Badminton Federation, the world governing body for this well-loved sport. Former Olympian and PBA member Weena Lim is tournament chair. The eliminations, quarterfinals and semifinals will take place on Sept. 17-19 and 24-26 at the Club 650 Badminton Center in C5, Libis. The Finals will be held on Sept. 29-30 at the SM Megamall Atrium.

Stagfighting season opens Aug. 31

A POWERHOUSE team of Pampanga and Bacolod's well-known cockers will host the grand opening of stagfighting season at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum on Aug. 31 and Sept. 2 (Tuesday and Thursday). Dubbed as the "Jimafer JVL EC 7-Stag Derby," this two-day event under the auspices of National Cockers Association (NCA) will be hosted by former world champion Jet Fernando, Jingco Brothers and engineer Efren Canlas. Aside from regular Araneta derbyists, also seeing action are guest participants from the newly organized Gentleman Cockers Association of the Philippines, PCCA as well as Bacolod and Pampanga cockers. NCA president and Gov. Ito Ynares said that seven NCA-sponsored stag derbies will be held this year to determine the Stagfighter of the Year. The "Stagfighter of the Year winner stands to receive a whopping prize of P500,000 while the runner-up gets P200,000. "To qualify for the stagfighter title, a participant must join all seven NCA stag derbies," Ynares explained. For inquiries, contact 9113101 and 9112928.

Big-time cockers join Las Piñas event

ALL members of the Gentleman Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) a new group of big-time cockers, have firmed up their commitment to join the "Annual Las Piñas 6-Stag Derby" on Tuesday and Thursday (Aug. 24 and 26) at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Collseum. To be hosted by Mayor Nene Aguilar, the two-day stagfest will be sponsored by Pagcor-Casino Filipino and Sagupaan Complexor 3000. The GCAP members are two-time Stagfighter of the Year Sonny Lagon, sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Gov. Ito Ynares, Rep. Rudy Albano, Boy de Roca, Gerry Ramos, Mayor Ashley Arayata, Richard Bates, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Eric dela Rosa, Pol Estrellado, Jet Fernando, Tony Lasala, Benjie Lim, Ramon Mancenares, Pepito Ngo, Boy Royo, Manny and Arman Santos, Blandy Tolentino and Bong Villanueva. Participants are reminded to submit entries on Tuesday, Aug. 24, from 7 a.m. to 12 noon only. For inquiries, contact 8731040 and 8743910 or 09205609404 (look for Gerry or Julius). Action starts at 5 p.m. Tuesday with more than 60 tough matches scheduled.

ATHLETICS

Kluft eyes barrier breach; injured Pittman returns

ATHENS, Greece—World champion Carolina Kluft looked set to become only the second woman in Olympic history to break the 7,000 barrier in the heptathlon after raising her total to 5,208 points Saturday.

With two events remaining in the grueling two-day competition, the Swede had 5,208 points and a huge 329-point lead over Kelly Sotherton of Britain.

The only heptathlete to break the 7,000 mark in the Olympics was Jackie Joyner-Kersee, who did it in 1988 in Seoul and in 1992 in Barcelona.

Kluft soared 6.78 meters in the long jump to expand her lead over Sotherton. The javelin and the 800 meters remain in the evening session. Austra Skujyte of Lithania was third, 505 points behind Kluft.

Joyner-Kersee's world record is 7,291, set in Seoul.

Thirteen days after undergoing knee surgery, world champion Jana Pittman made a remarkable comeback by winning her preliminary heat of the women's 400-meter hurdles.

The Australian, who tore cartilage in her right knee while warming up for a race and quickly had arthroscopic surgery in hopes of running in Athens, won her heat in 54.83 seconds. The best time of the first round was 53.57 by Yuliya Pechonkina of Russia.

"I was really nervous. I did not know if my knee was going to hold up," Pittman said. "I thought I loved this sport, but you don't know how much you love something until you have it taken away."

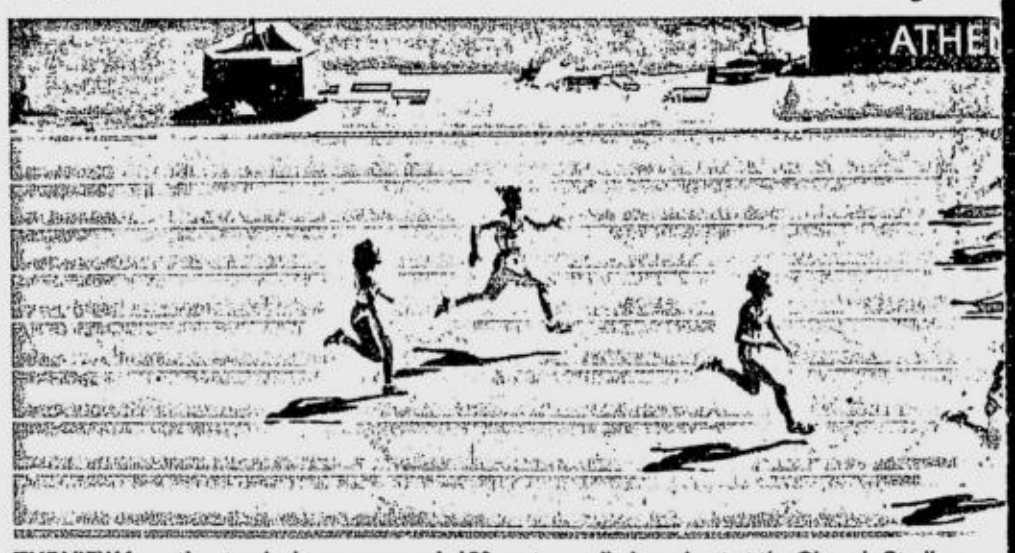
In the women's 400, gold-medal favorite Ana Guevara of Mexico slowed so much in the final meters that she had to speed back up momentarily when she saw competitors catching up. She won her first-round heat in 50.93.

Guevara, who is the reigning world champion and hasn't lost in three years, was joined in the semifinals. Sanya Richards of the United States set the fastest time in qualifying, 50.11.

Kenenisa Bekele used a breathtaking final 400 meters late Friday night to claim the Olympic 10,000-meter throne previously occupied by his Ethiopian countryman, Haile Gebrselassie.

The soft-spoken 22-year-old champion is not finished in Athens. He will be the favorite again in the 5,000 meters, attempting to become the fifth man — and first in 24 years — to achieve the Olympic distance-running double.

"Yes, I think so," Bekele said with a smile when asked if he had anything left for his second race. *AP*



THE VIEW from the stands shows a women's 100-meter preliminary heat at the Olympic Stadium.

Drug scandals contin

ATHENS—Greece was rocked by the threat of being stripped of an Athens Games medal and the host nation's team manager offered to quit on Friday, as doping overshadowed Michael Phelps' drive to be Olympic swimming's top medal winner.

Weightlifter Leonidas Sampanis, a national hero days ago when he won his country's first medal at the Games, became the latest Greek athlete to be hit by drug woes that have plagued the Olympics throughout their first week.

"I am stunned. I am going mad. We do not, and I stress this, do not, give our athletes testosterone," Sampanis's coach Christos Iakovou said after confirming the athlete had tested positive for a banned substance.

If Sampanis' second sample tests positive he will be stripped of his bronze medal and expelled from the Games.

Hours later Greek team manager Yiannis Papadoyiannakis offered to resign, but his bosses quickly tried to smooth over the new embarrassment in a saga that the Greek government has warned threatens the image of the birthplace of the Olympics.

"The president Olympic Committe... refused to accept charge of the Greek now," said team s Gakis.

The Sampanis wrong headlines f just as it had hope debacle surroundi metres champion C Katerina Thanou af own decision to w Games.

But other countr

Bekele begins distance reign

ATHENS, Greece—His name is Kenenisa Bekele. Get used to hearing it.

With a breathtaking final 400 meters late Friday night, the 22-year-old Ethiopian laid claim to the Olympic 10,000-meter throne previously occupied by his countryman Haile Gebrselassie.

The soft-spoken champion's work is not finished in Athens. He will be the favorite again in the 5,000 meters, attempting to become the fifth man — and first in 24 years — to achieve the Olympic distance-running double.

"Yes, I think so," Bekele said with a smile when asked if he had anything left for his second race.

Gebrselassie, seeking his third consecutive Olympic title in the event, finished in a painful fifth place, nearly dropping out because of an Achilles' tendon injury. He has long said it would be his final race on the track; the 31-year-old will now turn his attention to the marathon.

He leaves the 10,000 in good hands. With a jaw-dropping 53.02-second final lap, Bekele won in 27 minutes, 5.10 seconds, breaking Gebreselassie's Olympic record by more than two seconds.

Sileshi Sihine gave Ethiopia a 1-2 finish, earning the silver medal in 27:09.39. Zersenay Tadesse of Eretria took the bronze at 27:22.57.

The Ethiopians had hoped to sweep but Gebrselassie couldn't catch up. *AP*

KENENISA Bekele sets pace en route to winning the men's 10,000-meter final. AFP

Tradition helps Japan set Games' judo record

ATHENS—Japan's insistence on traditional ways in judo has paid off with a record haul of eight gold medals at the Athens Olympics, producing a new heavyweight warrior along the way.

Japan's judo officials have always stressed technique in trying for knockout "ippon" victories, bucking the trend by emerging rivals to rely on muscle power for any marginal points.

So Japanese judokas have been helped by a change in scoring styles by global referees, who now emphasize technique and execution rather than offenses made while trying to score, such as a false attack or overly defensive posture.

A perfect example came in the showpiece men's over-100kg heavyweight final on Friday, where Japan's open-weight world champion Keiji Suzuki used a variery of leg throws to dump four of five opponents by ippon.

Suzuki stopped Sydney Olympic bronze medallist Tamerian Tmenov of Russia in the final with a leg sweep, restoring Japanese pride after his compatriot Kosei Inoue suffered a shock defeat in the under-100kg light heavyweight on Thursday.

Suzuki, in Inoue's shadow before moving up from his same weight class, brought the premier judo title back to Japan for the first time in 16 years.

Japan finished the week-long judo competition with three men's gold medals and five women's—against one each for Belarus, China, Georgia, Germany, Greece and South Korea.

Japan's previous best judo title haul was four in Sydney as well as at the 1984 Los Angeles Games when only the men's competition was held. *AFP*

HUNGARIAN players discuss their strategy before th

Greene starts out title defense with trouble-free qualifying run

ATHENS—Maurice Greene opened his campaign for a second consecutive Olympic 100 metres gold medal with an untroubled win in his first-round heat on Saturday.

On a morning of brutal heat in the Olympic stadium, Greene did just as much as he needed to win his race in 10.18 seconds.

"It was an early morning jog," said Greene. "It was good and it's only going to get faster." Greene's U.S. team mate Shawn Crawford, the fastest man in the world this year, was the quickest qualifier and looked hugely impressive as he shot to the front before slowing at the end to win in 10.02.

Crawford ran in sunglasses and a back-to-front cap. "It's the first time I've worn a hat in competition but it's just a little sun visor on the back of my neck so my engine doesn't overheat," he said.

The two men who defeated Greene in three European races this year each won their heats.

Portugal's Nigerian-born Francis Obikwelu, who defeated Greene at the Paris Golden league meeting last month, won his heat in 10.09. Jamaican Asafa Powell, who beat the American champion in London and Zurich, clocked 10.06.

World champion Kim Collins of St Kitts and Nevis also advanced to the second of the four rounds which culminate in Sunday's final.

Asked about the young pretenders to his crown, Greene responded: "I can hear them yapping but they're going to have to make a lot more noise than that." Greek Hristoforos Hoidis did not start despite appearing on the start lists.

Greek team spokesman George Gakis said Hoidis had been withdrawn from the race several days ago.

"It was just that the organisers had not deleted him from the starting lists," Gakis said.

World heptathlon champion Carolina Kluft had an unwelcome flashback to last year's Paris world championships when she fouled the first of her three attempts in the long jump.

The Swede no-jumped on her first two attempts in Paris and faced elimination before she rallied to jump 6.68. On Saturday Kluft recorded 6.54 metres with her second jump then cleared 6.78 for a further 1,099 points to remain in first place. *Reuters*

Massu nears

ATHENS, Greece—Nicolas Massu beat Taylor Dent of the United States 7-6 (5), 6-1 Friday in the men's tennis semifinals to move within one victory of giving Chile its first Olympic gold medal in any sport.

In the other Olympic semifinal, Mardy Fish, an unseeded American, beat another Chilean, No. 16 Fernando Gonzalez, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Gonzalez had pulled off a th teammate an who was in th

Fish and M the gold med

"I didn't ex have anythin I'm sure Nico thing."

It's by far th

Thais to fete weightlifting champion

BANGKOK, Thailand—Thailand celebrated Saturday after weightlifter Pawina Thongsuk claimed the country's second gold medal at the Athens Olympics, while the athlete's hometown planned a giant party and elephant procession to honor her victory.

More than 4,000 villagers gathered at Pawina's house in northeastern Surin province cheered after watching Pawina win the gold in the 75-kilogram (165-pound) class with a total of 272.5 kg in a live television broadcast around midnight.

"She made it, and the province will hold the biggest ever celebration for her," said Surin provincial governor Kasemsak Saenpote. "People here said they will celebrate her victory throughout the night."

The 25-year-old weightlifter's mother, Sukree, performed a Buddhist meditation during the competition, and "her tears of happiness burst out once Pawina lifted to win the gold," the governor said in a telephone interview.

Pawina's mother planned to fly to Greece Sunday evening to join her daughter. "I'm so excited. I haven't slept since yesterday," she told the local television station iTV. *AP*

CANADIAN Karen Cockburn floats in the air in the trampoline women's event. REUTERS

Russian diva eyes last shot at glory

ATHENS—Svetlana Khorkina had to settle for silver in the all-round gymnastics but she can still make history in the Olympic apparatus finals.

The Russian diva is trying to become the first gymnast in history to win three consecutive Olympic titles on the same apparatus.

Khorkina's signature apparatus is the asymmetric bars. She won the Olympic title at the 1996 and 2000 Games, her success in Sydney going some way to making up for her devastation at unexpectedly losing the all-around title.

The bars contest at the Olympic Indoor Hall will come on Sunday, the first day of event finals, along with women's vault and men's floor exercise, pommel horse and rings.

On Monday fans will see the men's vault, parallel bars and horizontal bar as well as the women's beam and floor exercise.

Event finals are typically the most exciting part of gymnastics meetings, featuring competitors who excel at one or two events and who take risks to impress the judges.

The all-round competitions, won here by two Americans for the first time—Paul Hamm and Carly Patterson—reward the steadiest gymnast. *Reuters*

Female wrestl

ATHENS—Feisty females intent on dispelling the notion that women's wrestling is just a sexy sideshow to the main Olympic event make their Games debut on Sunday.

Women wrestlers are eager to show the sporting world that they are not 'toothless ogres' or busty Baywatch lookalikes.

Four medals will be up for grabs in the first Olymp but it is accept jokes that top t

"When you they expect yo two-teeth, an said American medallist at th onships. "We c tricia Miranda,

GERMAN Claudia Bokel (left) scores against Russian Tati

Ticket sales target within reach

ATHENS, Greece—Athens organizers said Saturday that they had almost reached their ticket sales target, as popular track and field events were sold out.

Ticket sales have reached 3.3 million out of a total of 5.3 million. Organizers have said their goal was to sell 3.4 million tickets.

Attendance at the games was disappointing during the first week of competitions, but organizers are hoping track and field will change that.

"Today we expect 165,000 spectators to pass through the gates of the Olympic complex," said Seraphim Kotrotsos, an Athens 2004 spokesman.

Organizers said tickets had sold out in 10 of the 11 competitions at the main complex, including athletics, water polo, cycling and diving. *AP*

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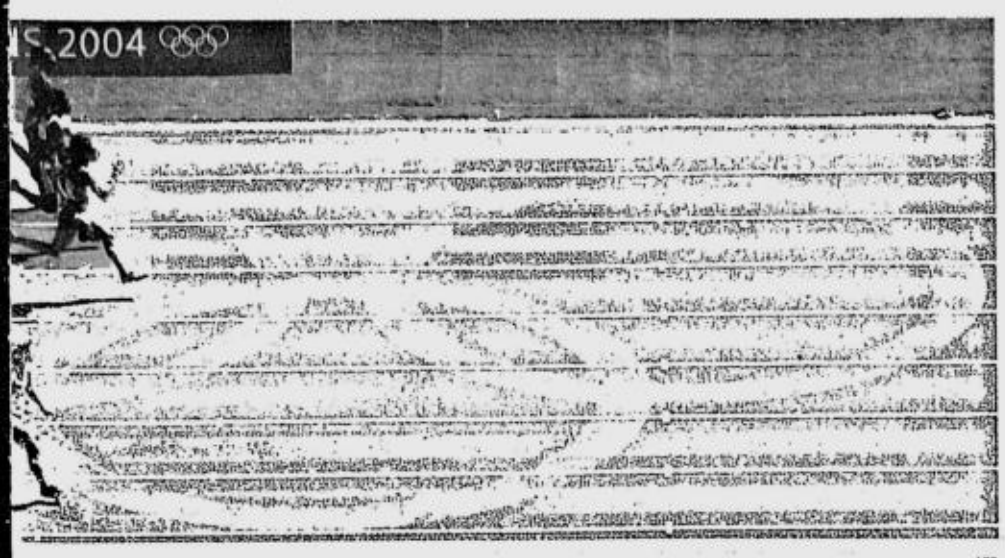

AFP

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immune from the doping issue and the International Olympic Committee said an Uzbek and an Indian had become the first athletes to produce positive tests since the Games began.

Uzbekistan's 27-year-old woman shot putter Olga Shchukina and Indian female weightlifter Sanamacha Chanu, 25, were both expelled, joining others barred after pre-Games drugs tests.

In Friday's sporting action, Phelps beat team mate Ian Crocker in a close 100 metre butterfly final to win his fifth gold and seventh medal at the Games.

The 19-year-old American is now almost certain to become the the first swimmer to win eight medals at a single Olympics -- without swimming a stroke on Saturday.

Phelps pulled out of the U.S. medley relay squad for Saturday's final to give Crocker the chance to swim but if the American team win as expected, he would still pick up a sixth gold medal because he swam in the heats on Friday.

That would give him an Olympic record eight medals overall. *Reuters*

Phelps grabs 5th swim gold medal

ATHENS, Greece—Michael Phelps matched Mark Spitz's record of four individual gold medals in the Olympic pool with a stirring comeback in the 100-meter butterfly, nipping rival and teammate Ian Crocker at the wall Friday.

In an Olympics that has become his personal showcase, Phelps pulled off what may have been his most amazing feat of all. He had every reason to be tired, racing for the 14th time in seven days. He was taking on the world-record holder, the guy who beat him at both the world championships and the US Olympic trials.

At the turn, it seemed as though Phelps had finally met his match. Crocker led his teammate by a half-body length, making the turn under world-record pace. Phelps was lagging in fifth, his quest for another gold in serious jeopardy.

But Phelps huge wingspan began to dig furiously into the water, leaving behind a wake that resembled a washing machine cleaning a load of clothes. With 20 meters to go, he had pulled up on Crocker's shoulder. At the wall, both men lunged for the gold.

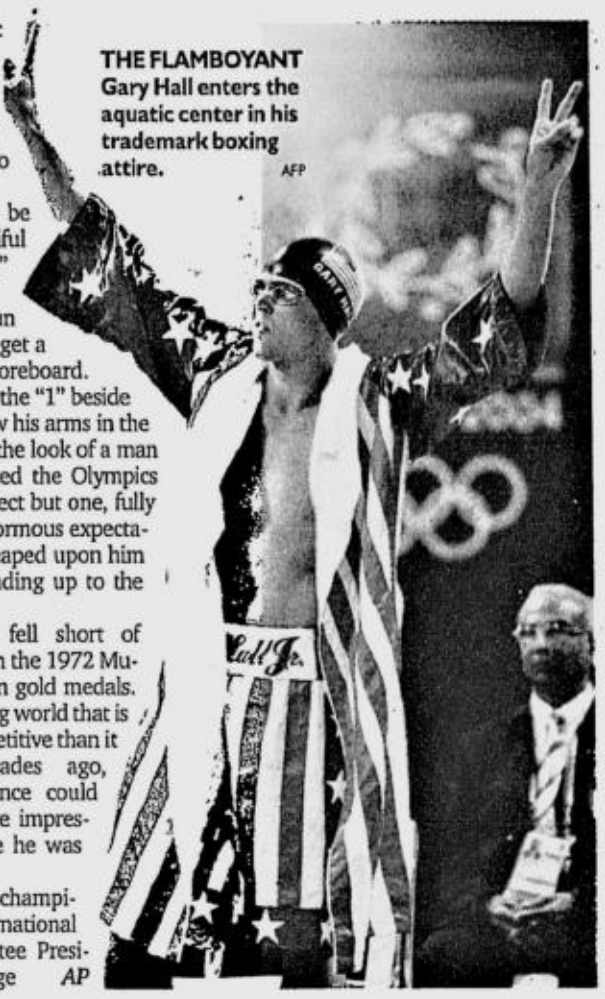
Phelps got it, beating Crocker by a minuscule fourth-hundredths of a second in an Olympic record of 51.25 seconds. It was his fifth gold overall, to go along with two bronze medals.

"I think it will be the most beautiful week of my life," Phelps said.

Both men spun around quickly to get a glimpse of the scoreboard. When Phelps saw the "1" beside his name, he threw his arms in the air and smiled — the look of a man who has dominated the Olympics and, in every respect but one, fully lived up to the enormous expectations that were heaped upon him in the months leading up to the Athens Games.

The teenager fell short of Spitz's record from the 1972 Munich Games: seven gold medals. But, in a swimming world that is much more competitive than it was three decades ago, Phelps' performance could very well be more impressive than the one he was chasing.

"He's a great champion," said International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge *AP*


THE FLAMBOYANT Gary Hall enters the aquatic center in his trademark boxing attire. AFP

eir women's water polo match against Canada. REUTERS

'Dream Team' not the only squad struggling in Athens

ATHENS, Greece—Take heart, Larry Brown. Yours is not the sole face of frustration at an Olympic tournament that's shaping up as basketball's most compelling since the 1988 Games.

Your American hoopsters aren't the only ones struggling at the Olympics.

The defending world champions from Serbia-Montenegro have lost three of their four games, Yao Ming's teammates on the Chinese team are having trouble getting the ball past midcourt, and Angola's losing streak is at eight years and counting.

Two of Serbia-Montenegro's losses came in the final seconds to New Zealand and Argentina, and a third happened Saturday—76-68 to Spain. The team sure could use NBA star Peja Stojakovic, who decided against coming to the Athens Games.

"They've got their own worries, we've got ours," New Zealand's Sean Marks said after his team beat Serbia-Montenegro, 90-87.

Undefeated Spain further added to the woes of the defending champions, pushing them to the brink of Olympic elimination with a 76-68 triumph.

While folks in the United States have been fretting over their team's failure against Puerto Rico and difficulties against Greece and Australia, the basketball-crazy brigades in Belgrade and Beijing have been scratching their heads over their nations' shortcomings.

Serbia-Montenegro is 1-4 and China is 1-2 in Group B—the more difficult of the two—and both are in danger of failing to make it past the preliminaries. Only a last-second miss by Italy has kept Serbia-Montenegro from being 0-4.

"Nothing has happened with the world champions. It's just that we lost two games by a point," said Serbia-Montenegro forward Dejan Bodiroga, widely considered the best pro player in Europe. "Now we turn to further games, and we will fight until the end."

The only remaining unbeaten teams are Spain and Lithuania.

The top four teams from each group advance to the quarterfinals, and ties involving more than two teams are broken based upon point differential in the games between them.

For the United States, that's what makes their 19-point loss to Puerto Rico potentially problematic. If the Americans lose to Lithuania on Saturday and defeat Angola on Monday, they could end up in a three-way tie for second place in Group A with Puerto Rico and Greece or Australia.

Since the Greeks defeated Australia by 22, and the Americans beat Greece by just six and Australia by 10, the math could work against them and drop them to fourth place in Group A—which would mean a quarterfinal matchup with the top team from Group B.

The United States also could finish third in Group A even if it defeats Lithuania because of the point-differential formula in the event of a three-way tie between America, Lithuania and Puerto Rico (3-1), which defeated Australia, 87-82, Saturday. *AP*

Chile's golden moment

rd-round upset of Fish's
buddy, Andy Roddick,
stands rooting.
ssu will meet Sunday in
match.
ect to be here, so I don't
to lose," Fish said, "and
is would say the same

best showing by Fish or

Massu at any big tournament: Neither has ever been past the third round at a Grand Slam. Massu's four career titles have all come on clay, while Fish's lone triumph came at Stockholm last year.

That makes for a fitting finish to an Olympic tournament in which No. 1 Roger Federer, No. 2 Roddick, and No. 4 Tim Henman were all eliminated by the third round.

Chile's total tennis medal count before the Athens Games was zero. The nation is assured of at least two now, as Massu and Gonzalez reached the doubles final against Nicolas Kiefer and Rainer Schuettler of Germany.

"I'm living a dream," Massu said. "I'm not thinking about the medals right now. I'm concentrating on my game." *AP*

ATHENS SUMMER OLYMPICS MEDAL TALLY

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	17	12	12	41
China	15	11	10	36
Japan	12	4	3	19
Australia	9	5	8	22
Germany	7	6	9	22
France	6	5	6	17
Russia	5	11	12	28
Italy	5	6	5	16
Ukraine	5	1	2	8
Korea	4	8	3	15
Romania	3	0	2	5
Turkey	3	0	1	4
Great Britain	2	5	5	12
Netherlands	2	5	5	12
Hungary	2	3	1	6
Slovakia	2	2	1	5
Thailand	2	0	2	4
Greece	2	0	1	3
Belarus	1	2	4	7
Poland	1	2	1	4
South Africa	1	1	2	4
Zimbabwe	1	1	1	3
Ethiopia	1	1	0	2
Georgia	1	1	0	2
Bulgaria	1	0	4	5
Switzerland	1	0	1	2
New Zealand	1	0	0	1
Norway	1	0	0	1
U Arab Emirates	1	0	0	1
Austria	0	3	0	3
Spain	0	3	0	3
Cuba	0	2	5	7

Puerto Rico gains cage quarters

ATHENS, Greece—A late three-point play by Carlos Arroyo gave Puerto Rico a lead over Australia that it held to ensure qualification to the quarterfinals of the Olympic basketball tournament.

Puerto Rico won 87-82 to give it a 3-1 record in qualifying even though it hasn't looked impressive since its shocking win over the United States in its opening match.

That victory, by 19 points, was the first loss ever by a U.S. team with NBA players and just the country's third ever.

Puerto Rico followed it up with an eight-point loss to Lithuania, a three-point victory over winless Angola and the down-to-the wire win over Australia.

"This was a game of ups and downs but we played much better in the second half," said 40-year-old Puerto Rico center Jose Ortiz, who is playing in his fifth Olympics. "It's been a long journey and maybe we can close it up with a good tournament like it's been so far."

Australia led by 10 points at halftime but had just one field goal over the final 5 1/2 minutes and will almost surely see its streak of quarterfinal appearances end at seven straight Olympics, dating to 1976.

Even if Australia beats Lithuania in its final preliminary round game on Monday, it would still need some help to advance.

Shane Heal's drive — Australia's only field goal in the closing minutes — gave it an 80-79 lead with 2:59 to play. Arroyo came up with his big play 38 seconds later to give Puerto Rico the lead for good. *AP*

ers not just sexy sideshow

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nce and an end to racy
e competitors' wish list.
ll guys that you wrestle
to be bigger, with just
gre with a hunchback,"
Sara McMann, a silver
2003 World Champi-
n help change that." Pa-
who delayed entry to

Yale Law School for a year to prepare for the Athens Games, added that the Olympics was an opportunity to silence the doubters and inspire a new generation of women wrestlers.

"This is our stage - we can show that women's wrestling is not a side joke or something that makes people think about mud wrestling," she said.

"They will see our sweat, tears and triumphs and that it is as intense as any male sport.

"If men think it is sexy to watch girls wrestling, fine. I do not hold that against them. We realise there is a long way to go, even within the sport, for us to gain respect." Women's wrestling is a popular TV sport in Japan and the country has won 41 world titles in 16 years. *AFP*

ana Logounova in fencing. AP

'Other' US five maintains unbeaten run

ATHENS—The unbeaten U.S. women's basketball team had their sternest test of the Olympic tournament so far on Friday, needing an eight-point run in the third quarter to pull away and beat Spain 71-58.

"In the first half we committed lots of fouls defensively and we didn't shoot the ball well and that gave them the chance to stay close and put some pressure on us," said U.S. forward Tina Thompson, who scored 16 points for the defending champions.

"Fortunately in the second half we managed to control the boards, run the fast-break and score some easy baskets. Our pressure defence gave us extra possessions and I think we took advantage of it." The two-times gold medallists, already assured of a spot in the quarter-finals, were up by only two points at halftime, the first time a game has been in doubt for the Americans in Athens.

The Spaniards, also unbeaten as they went into the game, levelled the score at 37-37 a minute into the third quarter.

But Sheryl Swoopes and Dawn Staley teamed up to spark the eight-point outburst with some excellent defence and key shot making.

Australia, seen as the stiffest competition for the Americans, ran their record to 4-0 with an easy 77-40 over Greece.

The win was especially sweet for forward Rachel Sporn who played in her 300th game for the Australians.

Brazil, the Czech Republic, Russia and New Zealand also clinched quarter-final berths with wins on Friday.

Megan Compain scored 10 of her 12 points in the last quarter, but none were as crucial as the last second shot that give the Kiwis a 79-77 win over China. *Reuters*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

After Athens, swimmers eye overall SEAG championship

THEY may have fared badly in the Athens Olympics, but the Filipino swimmers have a reason to hope for the overall championship in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games to be held here.

National coach Anthony Lozada said the five Filipino swimmers can be counted upon to carry the country's campaign in the SEA Games, considering the experience they have gained competing in the sporting world's ultimate stage.

He was particularly upbeat about Fil-American Jaclyn Pangilinan, who broke the Philippine record in the 200-meter breaststroke with a time of two minutes, 33.38 seconds. She improved the old RP mark of 2:35.01.

Though she finished 20th among 32 competitors she handily defeated SEA Games champions Siow Yi Ting of Malaysia and Nicolet Teo of Singapore during the Olympic heats.

"Jacky is right on track for the gold in the 2005 SEA Games," said Lozada, who also defended the performances of the rest of the swimmers who, he claimed, were just over-excited to be in their first Olympic stint.

Miguel Mendoza ranked 36th of the 46 swimmers in the 400-m freestyle (4:01.99), Timmy Chua placed 50th of 59 competitors in the 100-m breaststroke (1:06.37), while Miguel Molina was 34th of 36 entries in the 400-m individual medley (4:33.25).

Except for Mendoza all five RP swimmers, including another Fil-Am J.B. Walsh, were Olympic first-timers.

It's a different story in next year's SEA Games, according to Lozada, who is optimistic the country can at least improve its performance in the previous SEAG in Vietnam last year.

In Vietnam, the Philippines won just two golds courtesy of Mendoza in the 1,500-m freestyle and Molina in the 200-m freestyle.

The country won 10 golds when we last hosted the Games in 1991, with six golds coming from Eric Buhain, who is now the chair of the Philippine Sports Commission.

MENDOZA AP

Tamaraws nip UE; NU wins at last

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE FAR Eastern University Tamaraws survived a final-second scare before nipping the University of the East Warriors, 64-62, yesterday in the 67th UAAP senior basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Denok Miranda fired 18 points, including a jumper that lifted the Tamaraws to a 63-62 lead with only 25 ticks remaining.

UE still had a chance to steal the ballgame after Arwind Santos was slapped a foul in the last five seconds. But the normally cool KG Canaleta flubbed both his free throws.

"Isn't it amazing? You saw that the hand of God was there. Canaleta is between 70 to 80 percent in freethrows," said FEU coach Koy Banal.

The Tams improved to an 8-2 slate, just half a game away from the top-seeded Ateneo.

The National University Bulldogs finally ended their misery, routing the University of Santo Tomas, 82-63, for their first win in 10 games.

UE slipped to fourth place at 5-5, while UST dropped to sixth with a 4-6 card.

After the Tamaraws set the tempo in the first half, the Warriors forged a 16-4 rally in the third quarter for a 48-40 lead. But the tested trio of Miranda, Santos and RJ Rizada took over and tied the count, 50-50.

Dave Catamora sparked NU's second-quarter attack for a 38-27 halftime advantage. UST, however, responded with a 7-0 run in the third period that narrowed the margin, 38-34.

But the Bulldogs soon recovered their dominating form and eventually extended the lead to 20 points, 72-52, midway in the fourth quarter. UST seemed helpless without skipper Christian Luanzon, who was suspended one game for two unsportsmanlike fouls in his past games.

NU's first victory notably came even as main man Rey Mendoza rode the bench the entire game.

"I'm giving the others who are playing well a chance," said NU coach Rico Perez. Mendoza averaged a measly 3.3 points in his last four matches.

The Tiger Cubs thwarted the Bullpups, 65-52, for their ninth straight win in junior play.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Adamson vs UP (Jrs)
*2 p.m.—Adamson vs UP (Srs)
*4 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle (Srs)
6 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle (Jrs)
*Live on Studio 23

The scores:

Second game (Srs)

NU 82—D. Catamora 14, Miclat 11, Estolano 11, Fernandez 9, Asoro 8, Malagueno 7, King 7, Balijon 6, Malcontento 3, C. Catamora 3, Moradas 2, Mollena 1, Garcia 0.

UST 63—Vizcarra 19, Pribhdas 13, Evangelista 6, Espiritu 5, De Guzman 5, Dizon 4, Allera 4, Sumalinog 3, Cortes 2, Manching 1, Duncil 1, Tong 0, Cuan 0.

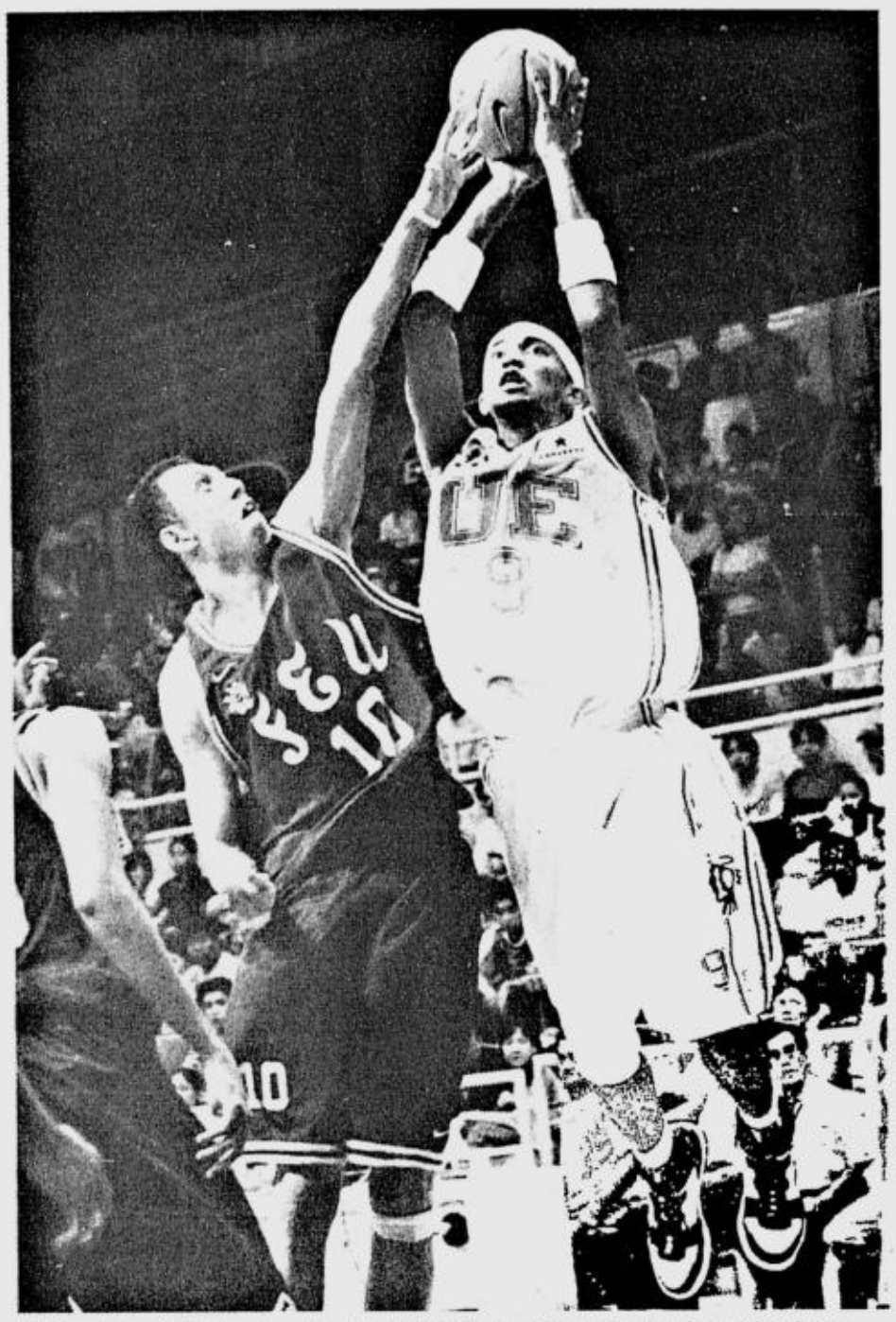
Quarters: 18-12, 38-27, 54-45, 82-63.

Third game (Srs)

FEU 64—Miranda 18, Santos 12, Rizada 7, Chan 7, Yabut 6, Isip 4, Dela Cruz 3, Cutler 3, Mangahas 2, Garcia 2, Santiago 0, Flores 0, Barcellano 0.

UE 62—Hubalde 19, Canaleta 13, Masbang 10, Dizon 6, Labagala 6, Arellano 5, Saguindel 3, Napo 0, Palaganas 0.

Quarters: 18-14, 36-32, 52-53, 64-62.



KG Canaleta of UE attempts a short stab off FEU's Don Yabut. Canaleta later missed two crucial freethrows that cost his Warriors the game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RP teeners enjoy own Athens stint

ATHENS—Teenagers Lea Coline Langit and Jose Andoni Santos don't mind staying in the hills and walking and playing under the heat of the sun. The important thing for them is they're making new friends from more then 200 countries.

Lea, 18, and Andoni, 17, are attending the Olympic Youth Camp, which is being held in Grammatiko, a small hilly town an hour's drive away from here.

"We're enjoying our stay because we meet new friends and learn about the different cultures," said Lea, a La Salle sports studies student. "We also play a lot because the complex we're staying in has a football field, two basketball courts and a swimming pool."

According to Andoni, a UP philosophy student, "our day start as early as 5:30 a.m. if we have to visit other places and watch ongoing games in different venues, or at 7 o'clock if we only have activities in the complex."

"We have to walk at least 30 minutes before we can go to the town proper," said Andoni, "But this doesn't happen often because we have a lot of activities like basketball, football, swimming, volleyball and even dancing."

They are billeted eight to a room. Andoni has four roommates, two Irish and one each from Sudan, Samoa, Guinea, East Timor and Gambia.

Lea rooms with fellow campers from San Marino, Bolivia, Cayman Islands, Palau, South Africa, Tonga and Germany.

W. Wack stuns Southwoods

WACK WACK scored a stunning upset of the favored Manila Southwoods in topping the Diamond division of the 12th Luzvimin Invitational golf tournament which ended Friday at the Cebu Country Club course.

The team of Liza Lopez, Stephanie Yu, Katya dela Cruz, Leanna Farrales, Elvira Liboro and Vicky Farrales finished with a three-day aggregate of 530 on a last-day output of 183 to beat Southwoods by 16 points.

Southwoods amassed 181 for 514, edging out first day leader Sta. Elena for second place.

Lora Roberto copped the championship flight individual plum, winning by two strokes with her 150 total.

Villamor made up of Jo Barredo, Cynthia Octaviano, Sarah Cruz, Ting Yupangco, Amelou Juinio and Carol Nielsen captured the Ruby division while Baguio Country Club (Cha Diciano, Nanette Filler, Liza Rondez, Sonia Bruce, Anne Philips and Norma Lawrence, took the Pearl division.

Other individual winners were Josephine Siguan of Alta Vista who nipped Canlubang's Teresa Carpio in a countback in Class A.

Lipa: 'We'll have to work as a team'

By June Navarro

WITH the departure of Vergel Meneses, the FedEx Express might as well do away with individual plays.

"We have to devise an offense that will get everybody involved. We have to work as a team," said FedEx coach Joe Lipa in the aftermath of a blockbuster trade that sent Meneses to Red Bull Barako in exchange for Homer Se.

Meneses, the 1995 PBA MVP, is well known for his isolation plays and high-flying acts, things that got him four Most Valuable Player awards in the annual All-Star games.

"We will just have to adjust our game. We lost a great talent in Vergel, but we think he will be better off with Red Bull. As for Homer, we will surely welcome him," said Lipa.

With Meneses gone, Lipa is hoping to fill the void by getting all of his players in the flow with the addition of the 6-foot-5 Se.

Se, who will report for practice as an Express tomorrow, is a natural center-forward.

The preparation of the Express for the All-Filipino Cup on Oct. 3 had been slightly delayed by the trade and the participation of some FedEx players in the Super Cup in Hong Kong and Jones Cup in Taipei.

"Our timetable was supposed to have started 45 days ago, but was cut short after 10 days due to the lending of those players. With the trade, we're really behind schedule," Lipa said.

Gerald Rosales nears breakthrough victory

By Jong Arcano

PLAYING behind the giant shadow of sister Jenny, who is playing her biggest season yet in the LPGA, Gerald Rosales put himself in a position to score his own career breakthrough yesterday.

Gerald kept pace with the torrid scoring in the Tianjin TEDA Open with his third straight round in the 60s—a double-bogey marred three-under-par 69—to stay within two shots off the lead after three rounds of the $200,000 event in Tianjin; China.

Opening with a 65 and a 69 in the first two days, Rosales was in a tie for third at 202 with Thai star Boonchu Ruangkit, who fired the day's low round of 64 at Tianjin Warner International Golf Club.

Thailand's Thammanoon Srirot scored a 69 for a whopping 16-under-par total of 200 for 54 holes as he held on to a one-stroke lead over Charlie Wi, the Korean who had a 68.

While Thammanoon, Wi and Boonchu have all tasted victories in the region, Rosales will be hoping to secure his maiden Asian Tour title and first since he won as a rookie in the Philippine Open in 2000.

He chipped in for eagle on the third hole, birdied the 10th and 12th holes to tie Srirot for the lead only to stumble with a double-bogey on the par-4 13th where he drove to the rough, missed the green on his approach then skulled his third shot to find himself hitting his fourth shot from the bunker.

"Same hole again," said Rosales, who bogeyed the hole Friday.

"However, I'm still in the thick of things. I need one good round tomorrow. I'm going to keep to my game plan and hope for some putts to drop. I'll aim to birdie 13 tomorrow," he said.

Rosales is desperately in need of a big finish after falling to 85th in the money list. Only the top 60 players retain their playing rights for next season.

Scourge of the Olympiad

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

YOU are the host of the Olympic Games and then, when the Games are on, you see your superstar quitting. A pity, isn't it, if not a shame.

That's what happened to Greece on Wednesday when Kostadinos Kenteris, the controversial Greek sprinter, withdrew from the Olympiad, triggering a flood of reaction from the international sports community bordering from the dramatic to the trivial.

Kenteris was the winner of the 200-meter sprint in Sydney four years ago.

"In the interest of the country, I am withdrawing from the Games," said the 31-year-old Kenteris.

He was joined by Ekaterini Thanou, Kenteris' training partner, in throwing behind their Olympic dream of winning yet another medal right in their own backyard. Thanou was the silver medalist in the 100-m dash in the Sydney Olympiad.

Kenteris, who was aiming to score a repeat of his golden feat in Sydney, suffered a motorcycle accident days before the Aug. 13 opening of the Athens Olympiad. Thanou was with him in that mishap and both were hospitalized for five days.

Even before they figured in the accident, both had been widely rumored to have taken banned substances while in training. When they missed their scheduled mandatory drugs test, they were summoned to appear on Wednesday. Emerging from the inquiry initiated by the International Olympic Committee, Kenteris announced his decision to withdraw—a move reprised by Thanou.

"I apologize to the Greek people for not being able to participate in the Games," said Thanou. "It's very difficult to withdraw from the Olympics, especially if they take place in one's own home country."

I can imagine the pain and hurt suffered by Kenteris—and by Thanou, too. The days, if not months and years, they had spent training for the 28th Olympiad right on their own turf were that excruciating it could break a man's heart indeed seeing that all go to waste.

But then, when you come down to it, were Kenteris and Thanou justified in just suddenly quitting? I mean, how can one like Kenteris quit just like that? Remember, this is the 200-m sprints champion four years ago, a certified Olympic hero no less and already the toast of the host country even before he is called to the starting blocks. I am quite puzzled by this turn of events.

I have two questions: One, was the motorcycle accident for real or it was just a fake so that Kenteris and Thanou could elude the drugs test? Two, did they reject the drugs test?

The reports about the two never indicated any; not even a hint on either of the two queries I posed was mentioned.

Too bad I am not in Athens. I would have made my own sleuthing about it. But being in Achilles' country or not, I'm really saddened by this seemingly unstoppable curse of seeing athletes taking banned performance-enhancing drugs. Kenteris and Thanou were never cleared of doping tests but then, they are perceived guilty because they elected to withdraw even before their cases could be resolved.

This modern-day malady of doping cases among athletes has become the scourge of the sporting times, indeed. Just on Monday, sprinter Torri Edwards of the United States was found positive for drug use; she will join a Kenyan boxer in the early trip for home.

In Sydney, 11 athletes out of 10,649 had been disqualified for doping cases. But twice that number have already been suspended, accused or targeted since the start of the year.

Against a backdrop of renewed efforts to collar drug offenders in the ongoing Games, last-minute withdrawals had been reported to the delight of organizers out to make Athens the first ever dope-free Olympiad since its revival in the Greek capital in 1896.

Kenteris, Thanou and all, I wish Greece would pull it out of the fire, the way Paris did to save Helen of Troy.

NEC INVITATIONAL

Toms clubhouse leader with 66

AKRON, Ohio—David Toms finished his first round on Friday morning with a double bogey and it turned out to be fortunate by the end of another day cut short by rain at the NEC Invitational.

Dropping two shots gave him an earlier start for the second round, and Toms finished his 4-under 66 just ahead of a downpour that made the Firestone Country Club course unplayable and left Toms as the clubhouse leader.

He was at 5-under 135, although still three shots behind Stewart Cink.

Cink played eight holes in the morning to polish off a 7-under 63. He was at 8 under and facing a 25-foot birdie putt downstream on the 11th hole when play was suspended.

"I guess that double put me in a position to be able to finish," Toms said. "Other than my last hole this morning, I got on a roll and played solid golf all day. I just did get finished, and it got pretty nasty out there on the last hole."

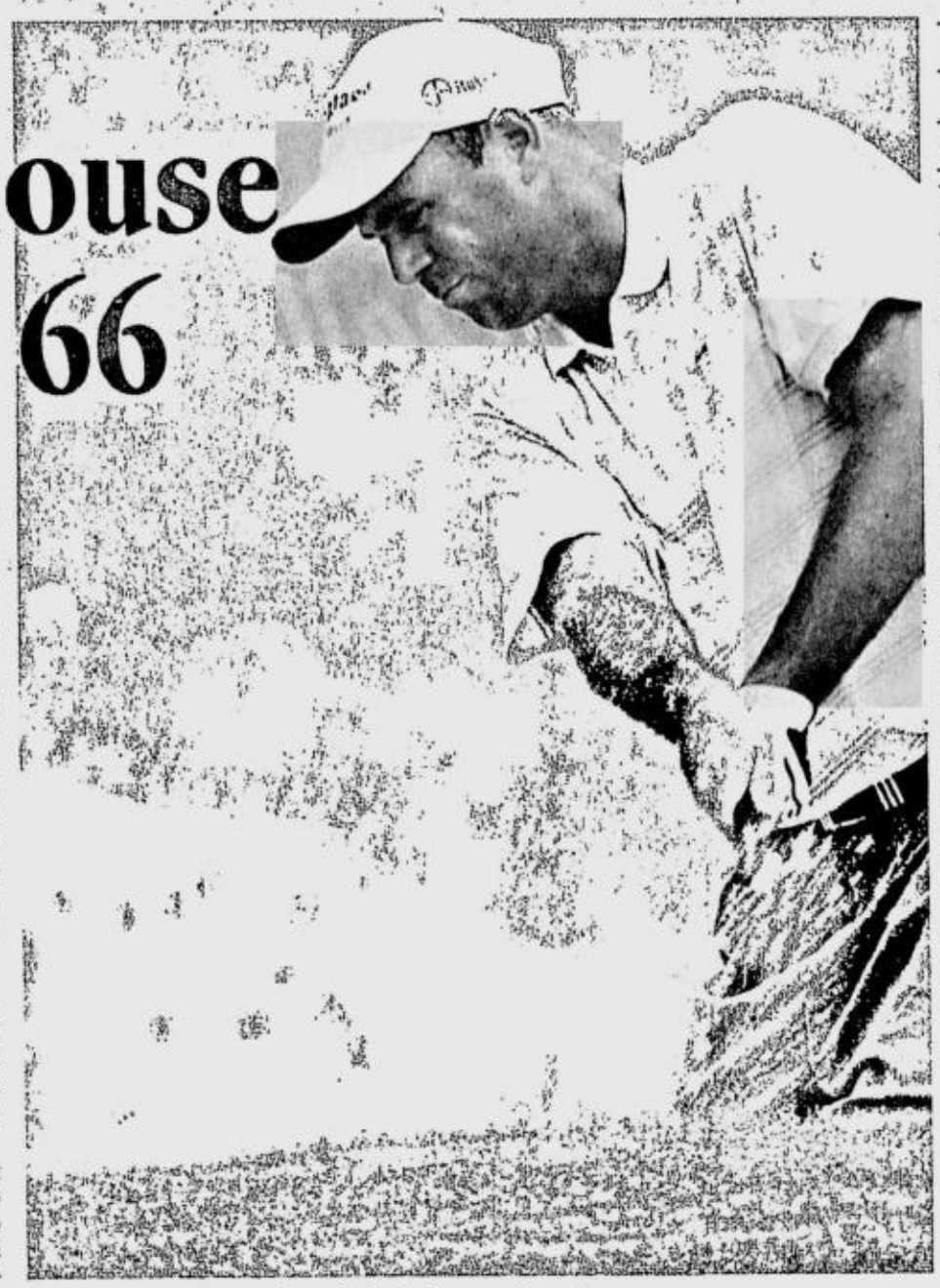
The PGA Tour decided to wait until the first round was completed before issuing new tee times, and only 24 players finished the second round. It shouldn't matter by the end of the week. The forecast was for dry, cool weather the final two days.

Rory Sabbatini (through 13 holes), Rod Pampling (12 holes) and Chris DiMarco (12 holes) also were at 5 under, while Zach Johnson was another stroke back through 10 holes.

Tiger Woods looks like he'll hang onto his No. 1 ranking for at least another week—not because he's playing great, but the guys who have a chance to catch him are showing signs of a letdown following a tough week in contention at Whistling Straits.

PGA champion Vijay Singh, who only needed to finish higher than Woods at Firestone to become No. 1 for the first time in his career, twice lipped out 3-foot par putts and was 5 over for the tournament with three holes left.

Ernie Els, who finished one shot out of the PGA playoff, made two double bogeys on the back nine to finish off his first-round 72, and already was 6 over par for the second round through 15 holes. *AP*



STEWART Cink hits out of a sand trap in the second round. AP

Being There pulls through; Lakambini Stakes up

By Edwin Villanueva
Contributor

THE WINNING romp of Cutting Edge is over.

Running under a new rider in his bid to make it eight in a row, Cutting Edge tried but failed to do so as he landed a fighting third in the 2004 Ninoy Aquino Jr. Cup race yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

Incidentally, it was the jockey who guided Cutting Edge to his seventh consecutive triumph recently that skippered the highlight race's victor as Being There surprised the field with a daunting run at the Makati racetrack.

Antonio Alcasid Jr., who guided Cutting Edge to an impressive win in the WHIP Cup last Aug. 7, gave a perfect ride on Being There who edged out Dandansoy by a head in the 1,600-meter contest to capture the P240,000 top prize.

"Yun ang diskarte. Isunod lang sa nauuna bago pakawalan. Salamat nanalo (That's the strategy. Follow the leaders first before letting him run with gusto. Thanks we won)," said Alcasid, who opted to steer Being There since he is the horse's regular partner.

The favored Cutting Edge, with Jeffrey Bacaycay at the reins, made a move at the far turn as he claimed third from sixth spot but could not flash the solid, sturdy kicks that enabled him to score seven straight victories since May 28.

Sexiest finished fourth while Ouzo faded to fifth. Free Wind checked in sixth and last.

Meanwhile, the country's top fillies take center stage today at the Santa Ana Park in the 2004 Philracom "Lakambini" Stakes Race, a P750,000 championship showdown for the premiership of this year's 3-year-old distaff division.

This year's Cojuangco Cup winner Cover Girl, last year's two-year-old filly champion, will be challenged by Moab, I Love This Game, Cool Runnings and Elite in the 1,800-meter race.

Lending support to the running of the day's main event is the Santa Ana Park Premiere Race, a 1,600-m event offering a guaranteed purse of P170,000 to the winner.

Set to lock horns in the featured invitational are local bets San Diego Force and Lord of All racing against notable imports Royal Catch, Hantuchova, Surprise Target and Trieste.

Bayron storms away by 8 strokes

DAVAO—Fancied Jay Bayron, using his experience to the tilt, pulled away by eight strokes from a hot-starting longshot Ranil Glimada with his second straight sub-par effort—a two-under 70—in yesterday's third round of the Samsung Amateur Tour's fourth elimination leg here.

Starting the day tied for the lead, Bayron and Glimada went separate ways as Jay mastered the tough Apo Golf Club layout where he spent much of his youth working as a caddie with four birdies against two bogeys to post a 54-hole aggregate of 215.

Glimada virtually surrendered his bid after struggling with a 41 on the front nine and wound up with his worst round in three days of 78. The cousin of pro hotshot Cassius Casas will start today's final round eight shots behind at 223 after leading the first round with a 71 and allowed Bayron to catch up when he scored a 74 the next day.

Unless Glimada comes up with a miraculous comeback, Bayron stands to clinch a third straight trip to the national finals of the Samsung Tour also backed by Tokyo Tokyo, Gatorade, Philippine Airlines, Adidas, Taylor Made, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport and Rogin-E. Killer-Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

Bayron won the Tagaytay Midlands leg last year but lost to Juvic Pagunsan in the finals. Recent US Am entry Pagunsan had earlier clinched his return ticket to the finals by topping the third leg at Pueblo de Oro in Cagayan de Oro City.

Jomil Ababa, a member of the big golfing clan which includes brothers Gil, Cesar and Edgar, moved up to third place when he shot a 73 for 226 in a solid stint that dropped Bayron's younger brother, Rufino, to fourth.

Rufino Bayron shot himself in the foot with a double par on the par-5 sixth en route to a 43 in the front nine and 80 for the day.

He was at 230, three up on Elmer Saban (77-233).

MICHELLE Wie watches her tee shot on the ninth hole. REUTERS

Norwegian near flawless in persistent downpour

DUBLIN, Ohio—Suzann Pettersen sidestepped a persistent downpour and a long list of challengers to take a one-shot lead at the Wendy's Championship for Children on Friday.

More than an inch (2.5 centimeters) of rain pounded the Tartan Fields Golf Club throughout the day, suspending play late in the afternoon—as was the case in the first round.

"I don't really care. I'm from Norway," Pettersen said. "We grew up playing in this weather. I almost prefer playing in this than in 100-degree heat and 90-percent humidity."

Pettersen had just completed her round when the sirens sounded, beckoning those still on the course to wait out the storm in the clubhouse. The 69 players—including three who never got to hit a shot in the second round because the first tee had to be squeegeed—waited for another 90 minutes before play was again called off. They will return to finish the second round early on Saturday.

Pettersen, one of 66 players unable to complete the first round on Thursday, capped an opening 67 with two pars and a birdie early Friday. She continued playing nearly flawless golf, avoiding a bogey in both rounds, despite the stoppages in play, heavy rains, lightning and thunder. Her 68 left her at 9-under 135.

Defending champion Han Hee-won and Reilly Rankin were one shot back. Han finished off a 66 and then followed with a 70, while Rankin followed an opening 71 with a second-round 65.

Also moving into contention were teenage amateurs Paula Creamer and Michelle Wie.

Creamer, the 18-year-old who came within a shot of a playoff at the ShopRite Classic in June, was at 2-under 142 after a second-round 70. Wie, the long-hitting 14-year-old from Hawaii, was 3 over through 10 holes of the first round before battling back and shooting a 73.

Then, she climbed the leaderboard with a second-round 69 to share 15th place with Creamer. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Socialize 2. Silver Flyer 3. Nagmamahal
Race 2--1. Carnegie Hall 2. Sunday King 3. Lady Tycoon 4. Lovely Tara
Race 3--1. Power Dance 2. King Size 3. Habagat 4. He's A Balong
Race 4--1. Solomioh 2. Fancy Dancer 3. Mas Que Nada 4. Beautiful Jaeda 5. Andee's Whisper
Race 5--1. Hurry Prince 2. Western Dancer 3. Federal Coutrt 4. Schwarzenegger
Race 6--1. Magic Bullet 2. All Powerful 3. Don't Tell Me 4. Samahan 5. Hello Africa
Race 7--1. Cover Girl 2. Moab 3. I Love This Game
Race 8--1. Prickly Heat 2. Expediter 3. Kantayok 4. Spear Heads
Race 9--1. Real Tough 2. Undisputed 3. Sharp Drive 4. Super Hero 5. Time Deposit
Race 10--1. Gleaming Heart/Ladies' Night 2. Serendipity 3. Dot Com/Roulette Queen 4. Kalashnikov
Race 11--1. San Diego Froce 2. Royal Catch 3. Lord of All
Race 12--1. My Little Pet 2. Doña Luisa 3. Cable Car 4. Shotgun Banjo
Race . 13--1. Amazing Red 2. Wing Away 3. Sovereign Queen 4. Real Charm 5. Precious Moment 6. Absurd

Agassi-Hewitt showdown looms once more

WASHINGTON—Andre Agassi and Lleyton Hewitt are another step closer to a repeat of their final earlier this month in Cincinnati as both blasted into the semifinals of the 500,000-dollar Washington Open.

Top seed Agassi, 34, reached the final four here for the seventh straight time as he hammered home a 6-4, 6-4 win over France's Paul-Henri Mathieu on Friday.

It marked his ninth win in a row after winning Cincinnati at Hewitt's expense less than a fortnight ago.

Hewitt, seeded second, dropped his first set of the week, but held off an inspired charge from another Frenchman Cyril Saulnier, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5).

The hard-working effort took the Australian two hours, 20 minutes in draining heat and humidity.

American icon Agassi came in with a valuable lesson from his comeback at Roland Garros two years ago, when he recovered from two sets and a break down to score a win over the young French gun Mathieu.

But it was a different story on hardcourt, where Agassi rules.

"I went out there tonight respecting his weapons," said Agassi. "I knew it would feel a lot different on hardcourt—but he still has the firepower." Agassi, holder of 59 titles including eight Grand Slams, didn't allow the 98th-ranked Mathieu a chance to threaten, breaking once per set to stay in control.

"I feel great, I'm rising to the challenge of each guy and looking forward to the next one," said Agassi, a five-time Washington champion and 26-9 a year in which a hip injury forced him to miss Wimbledon.

"I'm doing a lot of things well out there, but the tennis has to get better from here." But with an entry next week at Long Island as a lead-up to the US Open starting a week from Monday, Agassi is pumped on his chances for more success. *AFP*

AGASSI AP

Davenport registers 16th straight triumph

NEW YORK—Top seed Lindsay Davenport had little difficulty advancing to the semifinals at the Cincinnati Open on Friday, downing seventh-seeded Italian Flavia Pennetta, 6-2, 6-2, to register her 16th straight victory.

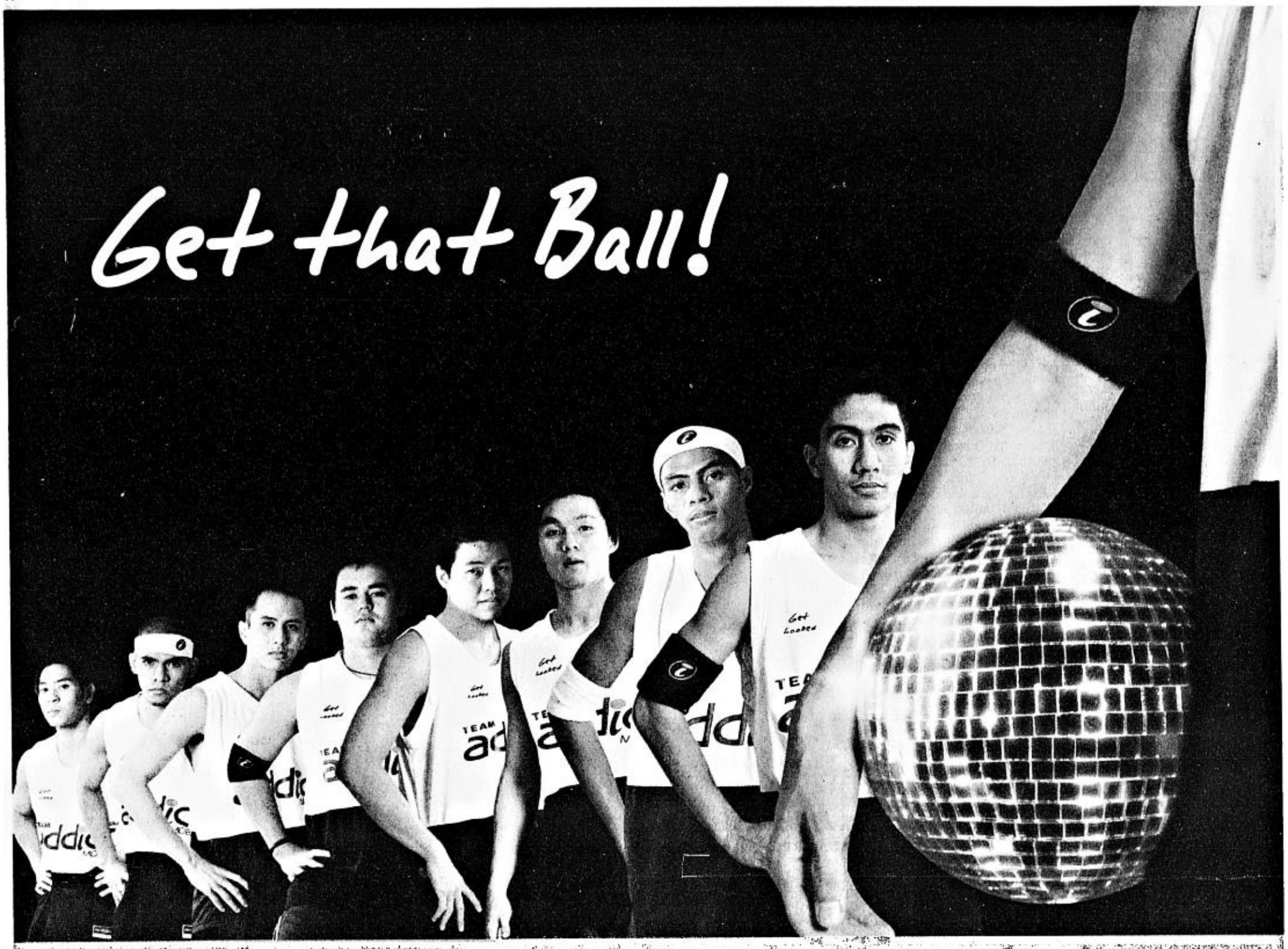
A three-time winner this season, the fourth-ranked American appears to be hitting top form ahead of next month's US Open and took just 45 minutes to dismantle Pennetta and improve her match record to 47-6 this year.

Davenport, who won a gold medal at the Atlanta Games in 1996, decided not to participate in the Athens Olympics to prepare her game for the final grand slam of the season.

Fourth-seeded Frenchwoman Marion Bartoli stands between Davenport and a place in the final after she eased to a 6-3, 6-1 victory over unseeded American Laura Granville.

Second-seeded Vera Zvonareva of Russia also advanced to the semifinals with a routine 6-2, 6-2 win over Chinese qualifier Peng Shuai.

Zvonareva will meet third-seeded American Amy Frazier, who cruised to a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Selim Sfar of Tunisia. *Reuters*



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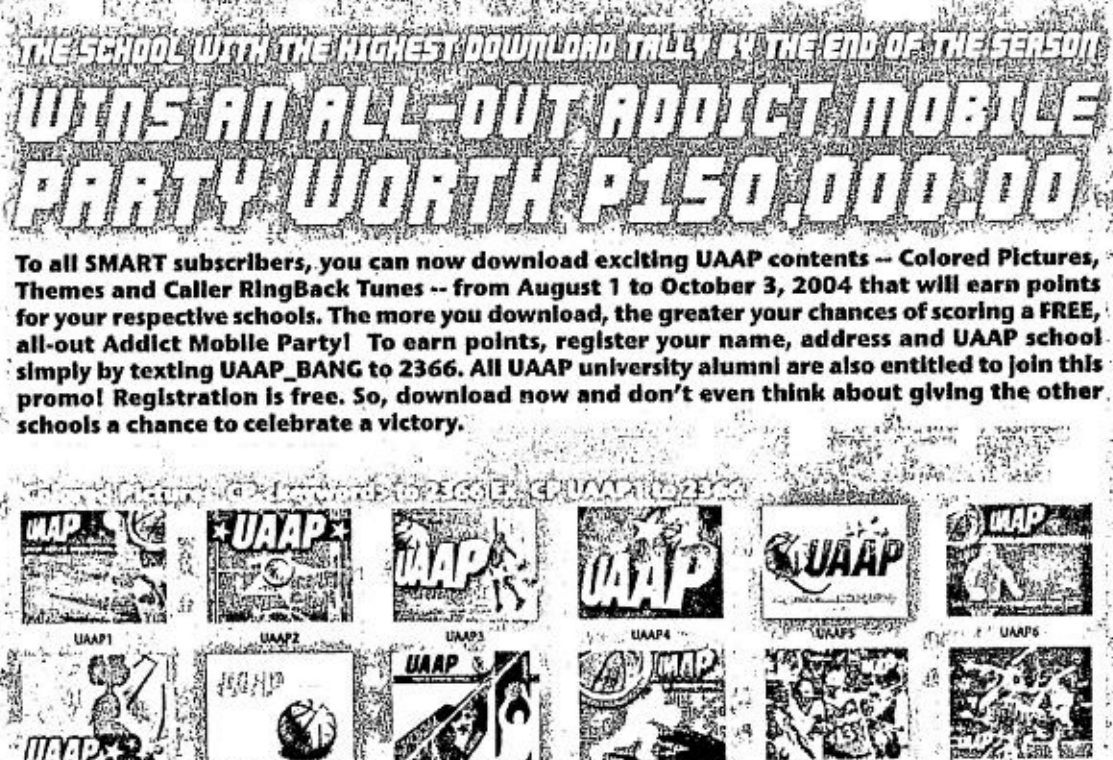

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Mother Lily: Misleading, unfair, baseless

MONTEVERDE. "Regal has nothing to do with those two outfits."

By Marinel R. Cruz

"MISLEADING, unfair and baseless" are the charges that four of the eight films to be shown in the 2004 Metro Manila Film Festival are produced by Regal Entertainment, according to the Regal matriarch herself.

In a letter sent to the Metro Manila Development Authority last week, Regal president Lily Monteverde argued that for one corporation to be considered connected to another, "there must be a showing that there are common shareholders between the two corporations, or that one corporation is a stockholder of the other.

"This is not the case here," "Mother" Lily said in the letter.

Of the festival's eight movies, four are said to be Monteverde's productions: "Mano Po 3," "Aishite Imasu 1941," "Que Sera Sera," and "Sigaw."

In the festival's list of official entries, "Que Sera Sera" was identified as a production of Regal Entertainment, "Sigaw" of MegaVision and "Aishite Imasu 1941" of BasFilm Productions Inc. "Mano Po 3" is from MAQ Productions, known to be a sister company of Regal.

"BasFilms and MegaVision are bona fide companies that Regal Entertainment Inc. has nothing to do with," Monteverde said. "At no time has Regal Entertainment or any member of the Monteverde family been a stockholder of these companies."

She pointed out that "a simple verification" with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) would confirm the ownership of the two corporations and disprove that they are connected to Regal.

Monteverde also noted that festival rules and regulations "clearly allow the entry of a film of one sister company," referring to MAQ Productions Inc.

'No legal personality'

The MLR Films producer, lawyer Joji Alonso, on Aug. 4 filed a complaint with overall festival chair Bayani Fernando, who is also the chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority. Alonso had said the film fest's executive committee "appears" to have adjusted rules and regulations to favor certain producers.

In another letter to Fernando dated Aug. 19, Alonso said SEC documents revealed that MAQ's registration had been revoked on Nov. 3, 2003. "As such, it has absolutely no legal personality to act as a corporation, nor could it have validly participated in the 2004 MMFF," she said.

Alonso said that in the case of MegaVision, SEC documents showed that the outfit committed a "major delinquency" when it did not submit its stock and transfer book.

Not registered

A check with the SEC showed that BasFilms Production is not at all registered with the commission, said Alonso. "How could (BasFilms) have validly participated in the 2004 MMFF when it does not even possess any juridical personality?" she said.

INQUIRER Entertainment obtained copies of the SEC documents, as well as letters from Regal, MegaVision and BasFilms that were sent to the MMDA.

In its letter to the MMDA, BasFilms vice president for production John S. Suarez said the company was registered with the SEC "way back in the late 70s."

Suarez's letter, however, neither confirmed nor denied Regal Entertainment's connection with "Aishite Imasu 1941."

Copies of camera reports from Regal Entertainment Inc. showed that a number of negatives were used for "Aishite Imasu 1941," with "J. Lamangan" as director and "R. Manuel" as cameraman.

Ng, stockholder

MegaVision president William Lao said Regal is not a stockholder of the corporation, nor are any members of the Monteverde family.

But Metro Manila Theaters Association president Ng Meng Tam is a stockholder of Regal Entertainment, according to documents INQUIRER Entertainment obtained from the SEC last Thursday. Ng is also a member of the MMFF executive committee.

A copy of the minutes of an annual Regal Entertainment meeting listed Ng as a stockholder.

"Incidentally," Alonso said in her letter to Fernando. "Mr. Ng Meng Tam's son, Marcus Ng, is a member of the MMFF selection committee.

"It's more than a simple conflict of interest," Alonso told INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday. "You are a judge and a producer of films. However you look at it, you are already

MOTHER/ A36

PIA GUANIO. "Unsatisfying" as host of "All About You"

Good hosting isn't as easy as it looks/A37

Diane Lane becomes Barbra Streisand's daughter-in-law /A36

DIANE LANE, 39, marries son of Streisand's husband, James Brolin.

The stuff that scared us as kids

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

"THE VILLAGE" is a nifty example of how to make something out of nothing—nothing but imagination and an enterprising plan on how to sell a movie.

If M. Night Shyamalan had not made it his trademark to pull the rug from under audiences in the concluding parts of his earlier movies ("The Sixth Sense," "Unbreakable," "Signs"), then he would have deserved credit not only for attempting something different with "The Village" but also for succeeding brilliantly at it.

But even if I was into this here-comes-the-twist mode throughout the movie, I'd be a hypocrite if I said I didn't enjoy the ride. For most of its running time, "The Village" does accomplish its purpose, which is (not to mince words) to scare the crap out of you.

Peaceful existence

When the movie opens, we see a man (Brendan Gleeson, last seen as Menelaus in "Troy") crying at the burial of his son as the people of his village look on while keeping their respectful distance. The child's tombstone says it is 1897.

The village is surely somewhere in the countryside, far away from the bustling industrialization that was happening during the period. From their communal meals (initiated with the simplest of graces: "For the time we have been given, we are grateful"), to the way they tend to their livestock and vegetable gardens, to their manner of courtship, we get small but telling glimpses of the villagers' God-fearing ways.

It's a very peaceful, you might say, very Amish existence. The people all seem polite, considerate, loving and innocent.

The halcyon simplicity of their life is troubled only by one thing, an enigmatic evil that resides in the forest which separates their village from the rest of the country. (The people refer to the world beyond their village and the forest as "the towns.")

The villagers call this evil "Those We Do Not Speak Of." They are supposedly terrible, inhuman creatures although we in the audience, like most of the villagers themselves, can never be sure what they are.

Strange noises

In a textbook illustration of how a literal image counts for less than its implicit horror, Shyamalan gives us only fleeting glimpses of the creatures. Instead, he makes our imagination work overtime with strange noises in the forest, like howls and the crackling underbrush, complemented by the ominous pronouncements of the musical score done by Shyamalan favorite, James Newton Howard.

What little we see is made frightening only insofar as the characters' panic seems real.

People who have seen Shyamalan's previous movies would not be surprised by the filmmaker's approach, but first-timers perhaps would find "The Village" a refreshing departure from the standard horror fare. It is precisely the bare-bones nature of his undertakings that has led some critics to compare Shyamalan with the master of the horror genre, the late Alfred Hitchcock.

Shyamalan, who wrote and directed "The Village," gives us an effective hook, one no doubt aided by the trailer we've already seen of the movie. Casual movie fans cannot be faulted for being suckered in because "The Village" has the kind of stuff that scared the bejesus out of us as kids.

Indeed, when the truce between the villagers and the creatures seems to have been broken, and the latter seem poised for an invasion, the tension sends you right back into that 10-year-old state of mind.

Bring a friend

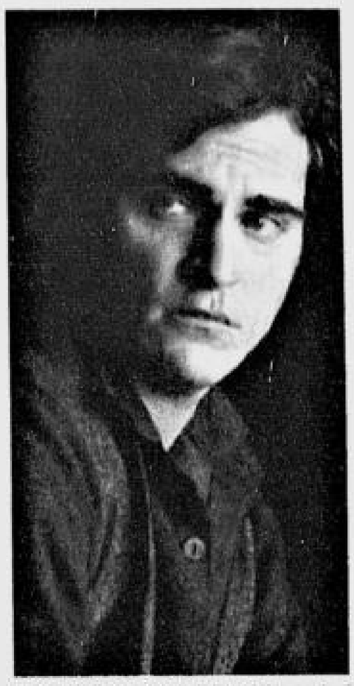
For a good three-fourths of the movie, Shyamalan does deliver on the promise of his unusual premise.

The conclusion, however, seemingly left a lot of people (at least in the screening I attended) feeling strangely unsettled, maybe even cheated.

It would be unfair to give away too much because the ability of "The Village" to deliver its chills is totally dependent on its air of mystery and suspense. Suffice it to say that even if the movie's trailer and its print ads seem to be saying much, they actually reveal very little, and it turns out there was a very good reason for all this concealment and duplicity.

If you're going to see the movie, do so with a friend, be-

'THE VILLAGE/ A39



"VILLAGE" RESIDENTS Joaquin Phoenix (left) and Bryce Dallas Howard, daughter of Oscar-winning director Ron

How Joey Reyes stays forever young as he turns 50

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

EVER-OPINIONATED writer-director Joey Javier Reyes is turning 50 this October. But that doesn't stop him from writing about young love and un-jaded lives.

Joey Reyes the director made four movies last year in various genres for different studios ("Kung Ako na Lang Sana," "Pinay Pie," "Anghel sa Lupa," "Malikmata"), and is happy that his other works this year have just been as fulfilling. The self-proclaimed "pornographer/terminally romantic human valentine" is elated that his writing and hosting work for the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism documentary, "Papogi: The Making of Philippine Presidents," has been well-received, and his collection of newspaper essays, "Porn Again," has won a National Book Award.

Joey's second documentary work is still hush-hush at the moment. In a recent interview, he elaborated instead on his involvement in the new Star Cinema romantic comedy, "Now That I Have You," as well as his vices, his views on the film industry and the network wars.

200 scripts

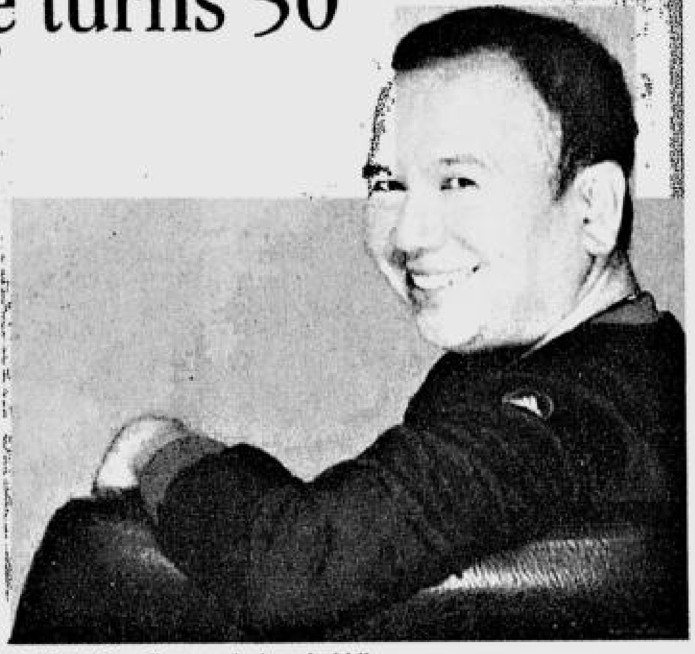
Joey considers his new screenplay, written in a span of four days, a fresh take on contemporary twentysomething romance. "It's different because it's very young, very current," he said. "It's not schmaltzy. It's very true, which is important in romantic comedies. I promised it to (director) Lauren Dyogi when he was still a production assistant in 1990. *Eh, naningil!* I really wanted to do it for him, because he's a really good director. I have faith in him. We have the same wavelength.

"Actually, the character of Bea Alonzo in the movie is me," he revealed. He described the scene where the aggressive young woman takes a picture of John Lloyd Cruz's character with her cellular "*Yung* 'remembrance, remembrance.' *Tawa nang tawa ang mga kaibigan ko kasi ganoon ako 'pag may* cute."

Having written more than 200 scripts for the movies and television has allowed Joey to express himself through changing times and audiences. "Let's put it this way," he said, "as early as the era of William (Martinez) and Maricel (Soriano), I was already writing romance stories.

"I keep myself young, I'm always looking for romance," he added, laughing.

The Internet has been very helpful in this regard. "*Ang* addiction ko, Friendster, MySpace, ang dami...*Magsasara na nga 'yung* first account *ko sa* Friendster. *Mamaya lang makikipag-*eyeball *ako.*"



REYES. "Now I'm over being afraid."

Talented students

His vibrant mind-set also allows him to enjoy what some may consider a socially healthy lifestyle for people half his age.

"*Sa edad kong 'to, laman ako ng* Greenbelt 3," he jokes. "*Laban ka?* You wouldn't believe that my obsession now is music. I collect CDs *na maski mga pamangkin ko nagugulantang.* Hed Kandi, Stereo Sushi... *basta* electronica! I have a collection of 3,000 CDs!"

He claims that being around young people makes him similarly energetic. "I love kids. I don't mean that maliciously. Although, actually... *Eh, diyos ko, kung kaming mga singkuwenta anyos ang magkakasama, ano'ng gagawin namin, maggagantsilyo?*"

Joey is excited that his scriptwriting students at the University of the Philippines are mostly talented people. "*Ang galing ng mga p—ng batang 'yan. May bagong* thoughts, *bagong kuwento.* That feeling is better than any trophy you can get. I'm so proud of them."

Joey, however, laments the presence of pre-fabricated young stars in the show biz landscape, when very few of them have actual talent and staying power.

"*Kapag may batang lumalapit sa akin na gustong mag-artista, sinasabi ko, 'pag-isipan mo muna,'*" he said. "*Dahil ang artista ngayon parang* cell phone. You're only good as the latest model. They're just products, and there are always new ones ready to replace them. At this age of instant gratification, the latest sells best, not necessari-

HOW/ A38

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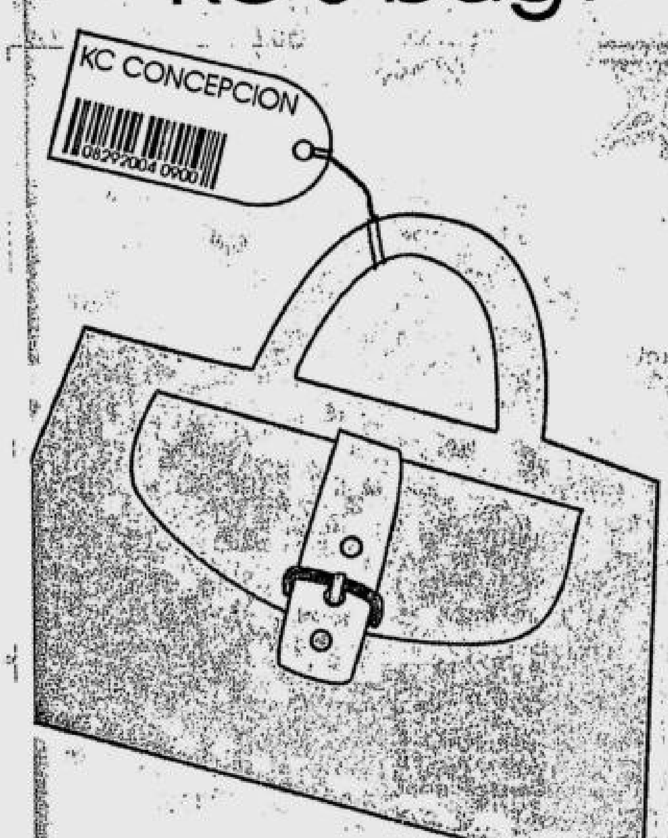

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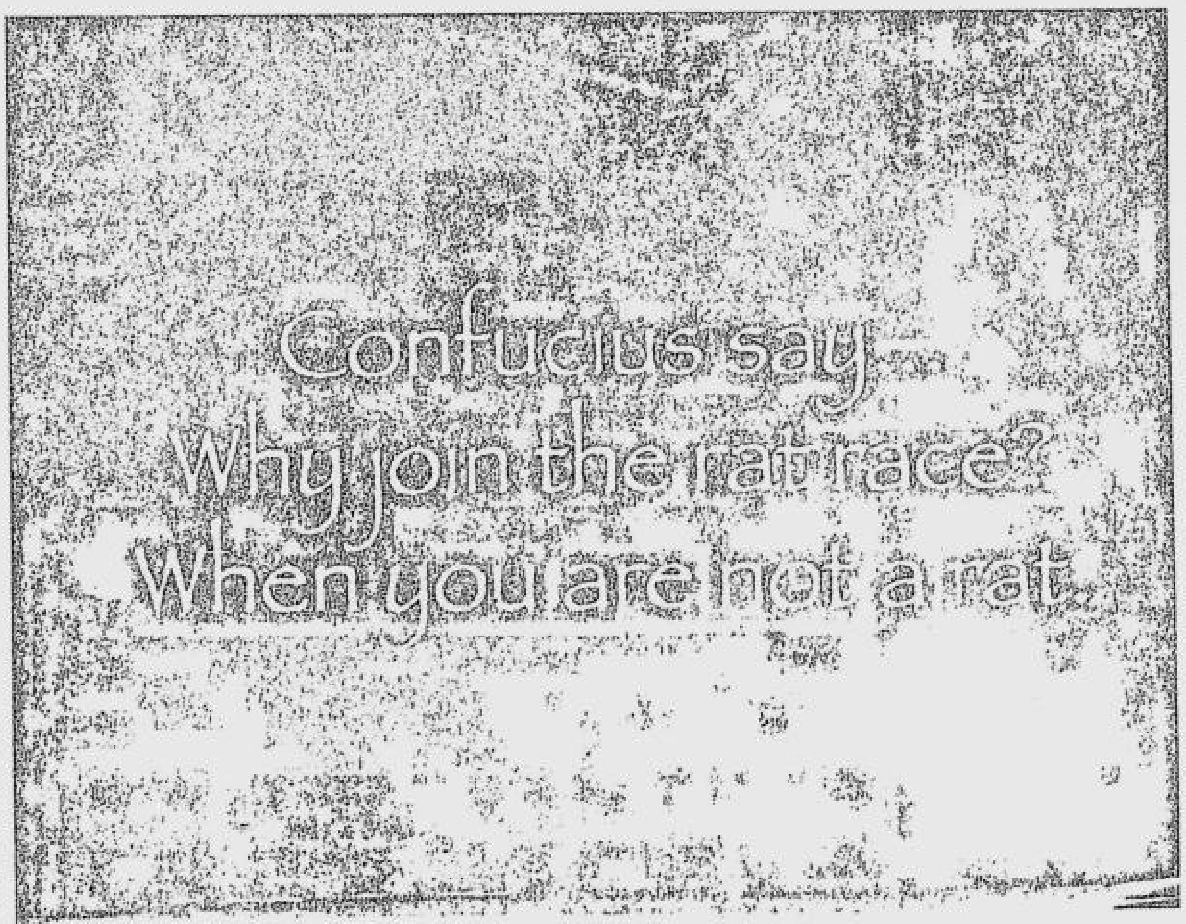

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Masculados, Aubrey in Davao Kadayawan

THE GRAND finale of the 19th Kadayawan sa Dabaw Festival in Davao City will be a free concert topbilled by Aubrey Miles, the Masculados, and Slapshock, tonight starting at 6 p.m. at the PTA grounds.

The show, "Kalingawan sa Kadayawan ni Rody," is an offering from the Davao City government as part of the weeklong celebration that started Aug. 16.

The new Masculados album from Universal Records, "Nakaka...," is a bestseller in Davao and has already spawned the hits "Jumbo Hotdog" and "Nakaka..."

Slapshock's new "Novena" album from EMI Records is also a big favorite among the young in Davao City.

The "Kalingawan sa Kadayawan ni Rody" is presented by Cebu Pacific and sponsored by Dickies Jeans USA, Pepsi, Air Philippines, Red Horse Beer, The Apo View Hotel, Philippine Airlines, Wild 92.3 WTFM, Ahfat Seafoods Pizza, The Ranchero Grill and Tesoro's Printing Press. It is a production of Achievers Promotions.

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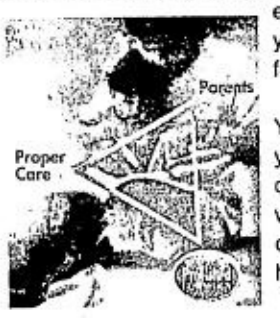

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

METROPOLIS star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 BANGKOK HAUNTED
2 KARELASYON
3 COLLATERAL
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
6 THE VILLAGE

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
2 (SDDS) ELLA ENCHANTED
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL
4 GOLD (DTS) THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE CINDERELLA STORY
7 GOLD (DOLBY) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 GARFIELD

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT **Araneta Center** **ALIMALL CINEPLEX**
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 (SDDS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 (DTS) THE VILLAGE
6 (Dolby) BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
7 (Dolby) STEFORD WIVES

MARIKINA Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
4 RESERVED

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DTS EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 THE VILLAGE
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 AROUND THE WORLD
3 (DOLBY) GARFIELD
4 (DTS) ELLA ENCHANTED

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 CATWOMAN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE
2 (DOLBY) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
3 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
4 (DOLBY) THE CINDERELLA STORY

CINEMA 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 KARELASYON
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DTS) THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DOLBY) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DOLBY) THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 GARFIELD
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE
4 (DTS) GARFIELD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) I - ROBOT
2 KARELASYON
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 (DTS) CATWOMAN

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE
2 KARELASYON
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 THE CINDERELLA STORY

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL
3 (DTS) ELLA ENCHANTED
4 (DOLBY) ALIENT VS PREDATOR

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL
3 PERLAS
4 ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHOW STOPPER

Lane becomes Streisand daughter-in-law

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood sweethearts Diane Lane and Josh Brolin have married, their publicist said Tuesday, in a move that brings Oscar-nominated Lane into the family of diva Barbra Streisand.

The actress, who was nominated for her role as a cheating housewife in 2002's "Unfaithful," tied the knot with Brolin secretly in California during the weekend.

Their publicist declined to provide further details of the nuptials that broadened superstar Streisand's extended family by making 39-year-old Lane her new daughter-in-law.

Lane has been dating Brolin, 36, the son of Streisand's actor husband James Brolin, for the past nine years and the pair reportedly became engaged last month.

The marriage is the second for "Under the Tuscan Sun" star Lane, who was previously married to French actor and "Tarzan" star Christopher Lambert from 1988 to 1994. The pair have a 10-year-old daughter.

Brolin was previously married to actress Alice Adair from 1989 to 1992, and the couple had a son and a daughter. He has also been romantically linked to British actress Minnie Driver. *AFP*

Mother Lily...

From page A33

biased. This only means that we are no match for people whom they consider part of their circle."

No more participation

According to SEC documents, Monteverde has stakes in Binan Cinema 2000 Inc., Sta. Rosa Cinema 2000 Inc., and Urdaneta 2000 Inc. Marcus Ng is a member of the board in all of these corporations, according to the documents.

MLR Films' "Minsan Pa," which stars real-life lovers Jomari Yllana and Ara Mina, failed to make it into the festival's final circle of eight entries. Jeffrey Jeturian directs the movie.

"We wish to emphasize that MLR Films is not going through this process to get 'Minsan Pa' into the MMFF this December," Alonso told Fernando. "Notwithstanding any positive outcome in the decision of the MMFF executive committee on (MLR's) protest, 'Minsan Pa' shall not participate any further."

Good TV hosting isn't as easy as it looks

WHEN **Pia Guanio** first appeared on TV, we boosted her stock early on by stating that, in our view, she was the most promising female hosting talent to be introduced that year.

Our only negative comment was on the green eyeshadow she used to make her sloe eyes look bigger.

We said she needn't feel insecure about them, because Asian-looking eyes were perfectly OK, and she should throw her green eyeshadow away.

We were gratified to see later that Pia had done as suggested, which we took to mean that she was open to criticism—a plus factor for new talents who want to keep improving.

Thus, in the coming months, we were happy to see that Pia was getting more adept at TV hosting, and was being offered more shows to do.

Unfortunately, there came a time when we felt that Pia was spreading herself too thin, and accepting shows that she wasn't really right for.

The big disappointment came when Pia agreed to host the sixth season of the stylish women's show, "All About You."

The program's previous hosts were the classy likes of **Lucy Torres-Gomez** and **Dawn Zulueta**, and Pia simply couldn't match their informed and astute way of hosting.

She must have thought that, as long as she read the prepared spiels and questions well, she would pass muster. Well, the former hosts of "All About You" had set a higher standard for the Sunday morning program, and Pia failed to measure up with her unenlightened work.

As a result, Pia's season on "All About You" was as unsatisfying as **Lorna Tolentino**'s previous stint had been. Yes, Lorna was another host who couldn't evoke the program's then signature classy tone.

Pia did well as **Paolo Bediones**' co-quizmaster on the "LG Digital Challenge" quiz show, but her current work as show biz segment host on GMA-7's evening newscast leaves much to be desired.

For one thing, Pia doesn't really generate most of the segment's show biz reports, but merely leads into them, so her function isn't all that germane to the matter at hand.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

And, on GMA-7's "S-Files" on Sunday afternoon, where she's the new female co-host, Pia doesn't really figure as prominently and substantially as she should, particularly since she has replaced the more informed **Janice de Belen**.

This is the bottom line: Pia is a lovely, articulate and proficient TV host. But her error is, she thinks she can do practically all sorts of program formats simply by making some adjustments in her hosting style.

As her insufficient showing on some of her shows indicates, she isn't quite as versatile as she may think she is. She should reevaluate her strengths and weaknesses, and host only the programs that showcase her at her best.

And she has to repeatedly tell herself that good TV hosting isn't as easy as it looks. It isn't only a matter of reading spiels well, and of going through the other hosting motions, but it's also about really getting involved in each and every show she does, and giving it everything she's got.

If she learns that difficult lesson, great. If not, it will eventually be taught to her, in ways she will no longer be able to ignore.

If she learns that difficult lesson, great. If not, it will eventually be taught to her, in ways she will no longer be able to ignore

GUANIO. It's also about really getting involved in each and every show she does.

'The Snake Buster'

FROM AUG. 23 to 27 on Animal Planet, new wildlife hosts will be introduced.

On Monday, Aug. 23 at 10 p.m., the host is **Bruce George**, and his program is titled "The Snake Buster."

George looks more like a biker than a scientific reptile researcher, but that's really what he does. Riding on his motorcycle, he risks life and limbs to rescue snakes from people's homes across Australia, and also rescues humans in the process. And he does it all for free.

Bianca, quizmaster

THE NEW celebrity quizmaster on "Digital LG Challenge" (9 a.m., Sunday, GMA-7) is **Bianca Araneta**. On Aug. 29, along with Paolo Bediones, she tests the brain power of the brightest students from St. Louis University in Valenzuela City and Jose Rizal University in Mandaluyong City.

The student who answers the most questions correctly becomes the weekly wizard, and qualifies for the War of the Wizards grand showdown to be held later this year.

'Kids Next Door'

AT 6 p.m. today, Cartoon Network screens "Codename: Kids Next Door." In the fun-filled show, five eager and bumbling 10-year-olds join forces against adulthood. They fight for their "right" to enjoy the fun things in life, like staying up late and eating whatever they want.

The youthful crew also embarks on top-secret missions on behalf of children everywhere, utilizing fantastic homemade technology like flying machines and catapults.

'The Good Girl'

AT 9 p.m. on Aug. 22, Star Movies screens "The Good Girl" with **Jake Gyllenhaal**, **John Reilly** and **Jennifer Aniston** in the title role. **Miguel Arteta** directs.

SECOND WEEK
MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
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"Sweet and romantic. A cool modern twist on the classic tale." Maria Salas, Sun TV Miami
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"Wildly witty and furiously funny." Jeff Berman, Wireless Magazine
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GUARANTEED SEATS
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1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 11:35, 2:10, 4:45 7:20, 9:55 PG-13
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20 PG-13
3 STEPFORD WIVES 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 10.00 PG-13
4 THE VILLAGE 11:30, 2:05, 4:40 7:15, 10:00 PG-13

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Rockwell Center, Makati City · Tel. No: 8981440-41 · DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
COLLATERAL R13 12:00,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:00
CINDERELLA STORY GP 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50
ALIEN VS. PREDATOR PG13 12:40,3:05,5:30,7:55,10:20
THE VILLAGE PG13 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00
GARFIELD THE MOVIE GP 12:00,1:45,3:30, 5:20,7:10,9:00
STEPFORD WIVES PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:10
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Don't sleep alone, don't switch off the lights at night, Real terror begins after you watched this movie.
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MORE TRUE TALES FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE
BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
the unborn

MTRCB G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
TO GET THE KINGDOM OF GENOVIA THERE'S JUST A LITTLE HITCH
Walt Disney
PRINCESS DIARIES 2
ROYAL ENGAGEMENT
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE ROYAL EVENT OF THE SEASON
AUGUST 25
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GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16

CINEMA 1

THX ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

2 THE VILLAGE 11.40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 JANDARA 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6 THE STEPFORD WIVES 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
7 GARFIELD
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
9 COLLATERAL 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
10 A CINDERELLA STORY 12:25, 2:20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:05, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30
2 JANDARA 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:50
3 THE VILLAGE 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
4 THE STEPFORD WIVES 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20, 10:00
7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:10, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 COLLATERAL 10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 9:00
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30
3 THE VILLAGE 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:10, 12:45, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:10, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30
7 A CINDERELLA STORY 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
8 THE STEPFORD WIVES 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:30

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00
2 GARFIELD 10:30, 12:10, 1:50, 3:30, 5:10, 6:50, 8:30
3 A CINDERELLA STORY 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30
4 COLLATERAL 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:40, 3:15, 5:50, 8:30
6 THE VILLAGE 10:20, 12:25, 2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30
8 CATWOMAN 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575

1 THE VILLAGE
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 KARELASYON

CAINTA 240-4661

1 I, ROBOT
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

STA. ROSA (049)837-0907

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 THE VILLAGE
3 ELLA ENCHANTED
4 A CINDERELLA STORY
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 ELLA ENCHANTED
4 PERLAS
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 KARELASYON
3 THE VILLAGE
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 ELLA ENCHANTED

STARMILLS 875-1927 / 961-5270

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 KARELASYON
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 THE VILLAGE
6 COLLATERAL

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858

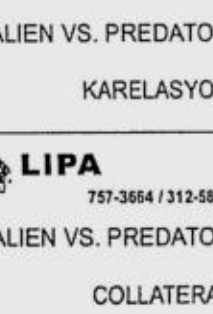
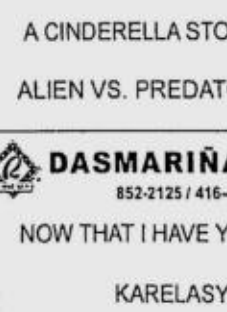
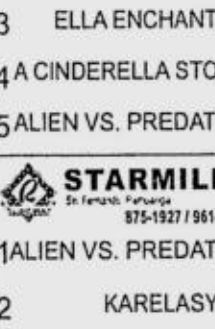
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 THE VILLAGE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 SYLVIA

BACOLOD 441-0458/59

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 BEAUTIFUL LIFE
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
5 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
6 KAINAN SA HIGHWAY

ILOILO 336-8070/76

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
4 THE PRINCE AND ME
5 DEAD PEOPLE
6 ELLA ENCHANTED

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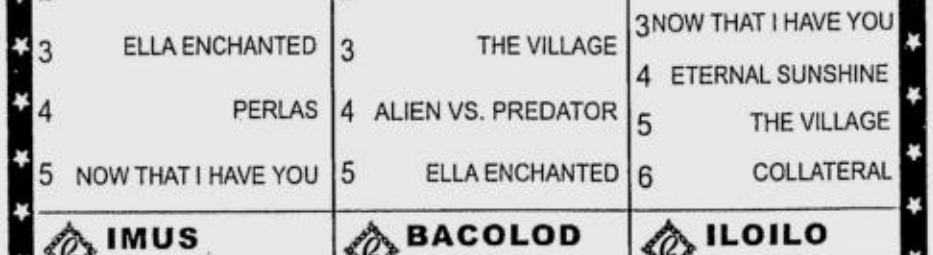

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AT THE CENTER

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AYALA CINEMAS

ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)	GB3 (Greenbelt 3)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 A CINDERELLA STORY; 5 GARFIELD	1 THE STEPFORD WIVES 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 THE STEPFORD WIVES	2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2: THE UNBORN	2 THE VILLAGE; 6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	2 DIRTY DANCING 2
3 THE VILLAGE	3 THE STEPFORD WIVES	3 THE STEPFORD WIVES 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30; 7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR; COLLATERAL 1:55, 4:05, 7:00, 9:30	3 THE UNINVITED
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 COLLATERAL	4 A CINDERELLA STORY 1:30, 3:10, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 A CINDERELLA STORY		GB1 (Greenbelt 1): 1 THE STEPFORD WIVES 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45; 2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	5 THE VILLAGE 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30	5 PRINCE & ME

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Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center — August 21 7p.m.
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Ayala Center — August 5, 7PM; August 6, 5PM, 7PM; August 7 & 8, 1PM, 3PM, 5PM; Glorietta Activity Center; Customer Service Hotline: Glorietta: 752-7272
Alabang Town Center — August 13-15, 2004; 11AM, 3PM, 6PM; Activity Center; Customer Service Hotline: 842-2782 / 772-1860
Ayala Center Cebu — August 20, 11AM, 4PM, 7PM; August 21, 11AM, 3PM, 6PM; August 22, 11:30AM, 3PM, 6PM; Customer Service Hotline: (032) 231-5342 loc 324

STAR bench/ WEGA THEATRE Globe AYALA MALLS Lovemall!
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AYALA MALLS Lovemall!

How Joey...

From page A34

ly because it's better."

Attitude

He also thinks the local film industry is already a goner.

"The movies are dead, realistically speaking," he declared. "If the earnings of the Manila Film Festival for seven days is less than what 'Spider-Man 2' earned in one day, my god, *'di ba*? The government does not care. Even the film fests are for the benefit of the mayors. It's an old song. I've given up."

Movie producers, he said, will keep making the same movies because they will not take risks. "Because the government will not help them! The nerve of some people to say that they've given the most help to the film industry. That's a big, f—ing bull!"

The attitude of moviegoers toward local films is partly to blame for this terrible slump, he said. "There's a low regard for Filipino movies in general. That was the attitude in the 1950s, and it has returned. People prefer to sing Chinese songs they do not understand rather than really subscribe to what is truly theirs."

This, he said, is the age of TV, where competitive programming shapes the landscape of entertainment, whether one likes it or not. "Right now, I guess I'm at a comfortable situation since I work for both ABS-CBN and GMA. For me, the network war is a business reality. It adds excitement. It keeps the stations on their toes. Hopefully, the viewers are the ones who would benefit from it."

Boracay

Joey considers himself more selective now in choosing projects, and he takes his sweet time unwinding and enjoying himself after all the years of doing everything. "The bottom line is, *wala akong maaasahan* in the future. Now I'm over being afraid. Not that I've found somebody to take care of me.

"But I've come to realize that you can go any minute. And what did you work yourself to death for? I went to Boracay for the first time only last Holy Week. I've been going back ever since.

"Nagpapayat ako. Teka nga, gusto kong gumanda! Kasi, kahit marami akong maatupag, kung hindi naman ako masaya, what's the point?"

Joey attributes his staying power to his being open-minded and optimistic. "There is always somebody better just waiting in the wings. I'm always telling myself that there's still so much to learn. I never say I've done my best. I keep on trying something new. I keep on evolving. I make it a point to keep abreast with the times.

"I've never been happier, because I've removed the pressure that I have to be the best."

'The Village': The stuff that scared us as kids

From page A34

cause you're going to need to talk about it when it's over. Days after, I'm still replaying scenes in my head, puzzling over their exact significance, and I realize that there are really frustrating holes in the movie's logic.

But like I said, while it is not perfect, the sum total of the movie is pretty darn scary. The visuals, too, are terrific. Shyamalan and cinematographer Roger Deakins (he received an Oscar nomination for his work on "Fargo") seem to have shot the movie in a chill season. By dampening the color palette, they successfully make the forest look unfriendly and desolate.

Less is more

For the horror to work, the actors also have to make you forget they are acting, and this is a feat that the first-rate cast (Oscar best actor Adrien Brody, Oscar nominee Sigourney Weaver, Oscar winner William Hurt, Joaquin Phoenix, etc.) accomplishes with agility.

I was particularly impressed, though, with Michael Pitt, who plays the village's night watchman, and Bryce Dallas Howard (daughter of director Ron Howard) for showing the nuances of fear in subtler, more disconcerting ways—that means, not the shrieking, slasher-flick bursts we are so used to nowadays. This is Howard's first starring role and she gives the kind of performance that stays with you.

In this era of effects-overkill and visual saturation, "The Village" is a shining example that less is more. Just a little imagination here, a little suggestive terror there, will do quite nicely. It's a throwback to a simpler time, when horror movies probed a deeper place in our heads and our palpitating hearts.

After proposing some eerie possibilities, though, it would have been great if the movie went all the way and just allowed us to scare ourselves silly with its original premise. In a way, I do feel cheated, because after "The Village" got so deep under my skin, I was able to drive home alone and turn off the house lights just fine.

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EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MASARAP NA PUGAD / TUKAAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
B	CLOSED
C	

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SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2 3 & 4	ALIEN VS PREDATOR, STEPFORD WIVES, CINDERELLA STORY, THE VILLAGE
PREMIERE THEATRE	STEPFORD WIVES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GARFIELD
CINEMA-2	INDECENT BEHAVIOR (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-3	CINDERELLA STORY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-6	I ROBOT
CINEMA-7	CATWOMAN
CINEMA-8	KARELASYON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STEFORD WIVES
CINEMA-12	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-14	THE VILLAGE
CINEMA-15	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	ELLA ENCHANTED
CINEMA-2	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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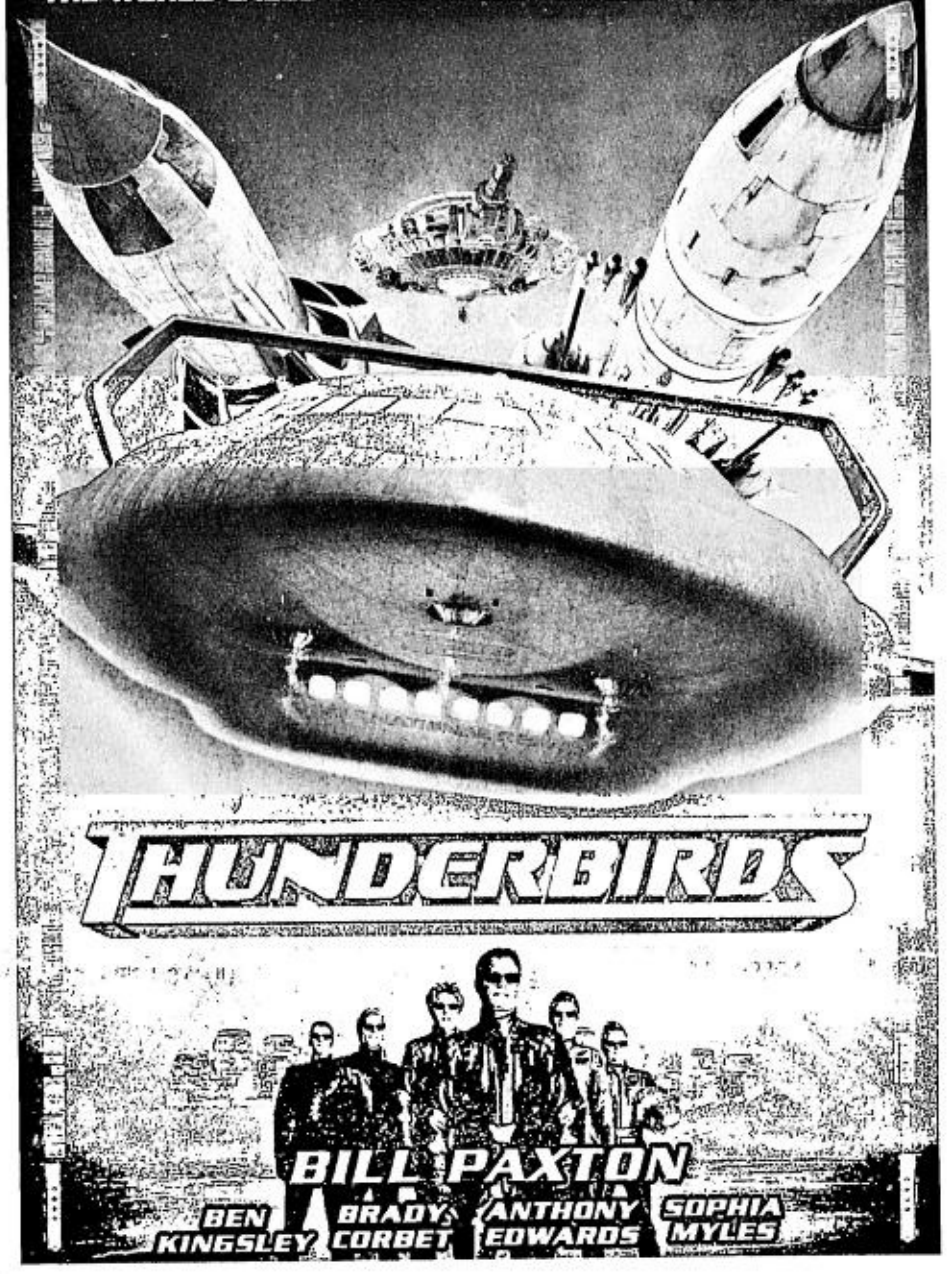

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
FS 10 35 am, 12 50 pm, 3 05 pm, 5 20 pm, 7.35 pm, LMF : 9 50 pm (PG-13)
3 A CINDERELLA STORY
FS 11 30 am, 1 30 pm, 3 30 pm, 5 30 pm, 7.30 pm, LMF : 9 30 pm (GP)
2 THE STEPFORD WIVES
FS 11 25 am, 1 40 pm 3 55 pm, 6 10 pm 8 25 pm, LMF : 10 40 pm (PG-13)
4 THE VILLAGE
FS 1 00 pm, 3 35 pm, 6 10 pm, LMF : 8 45 pm (PG-13)
PREMIERE THEATRE
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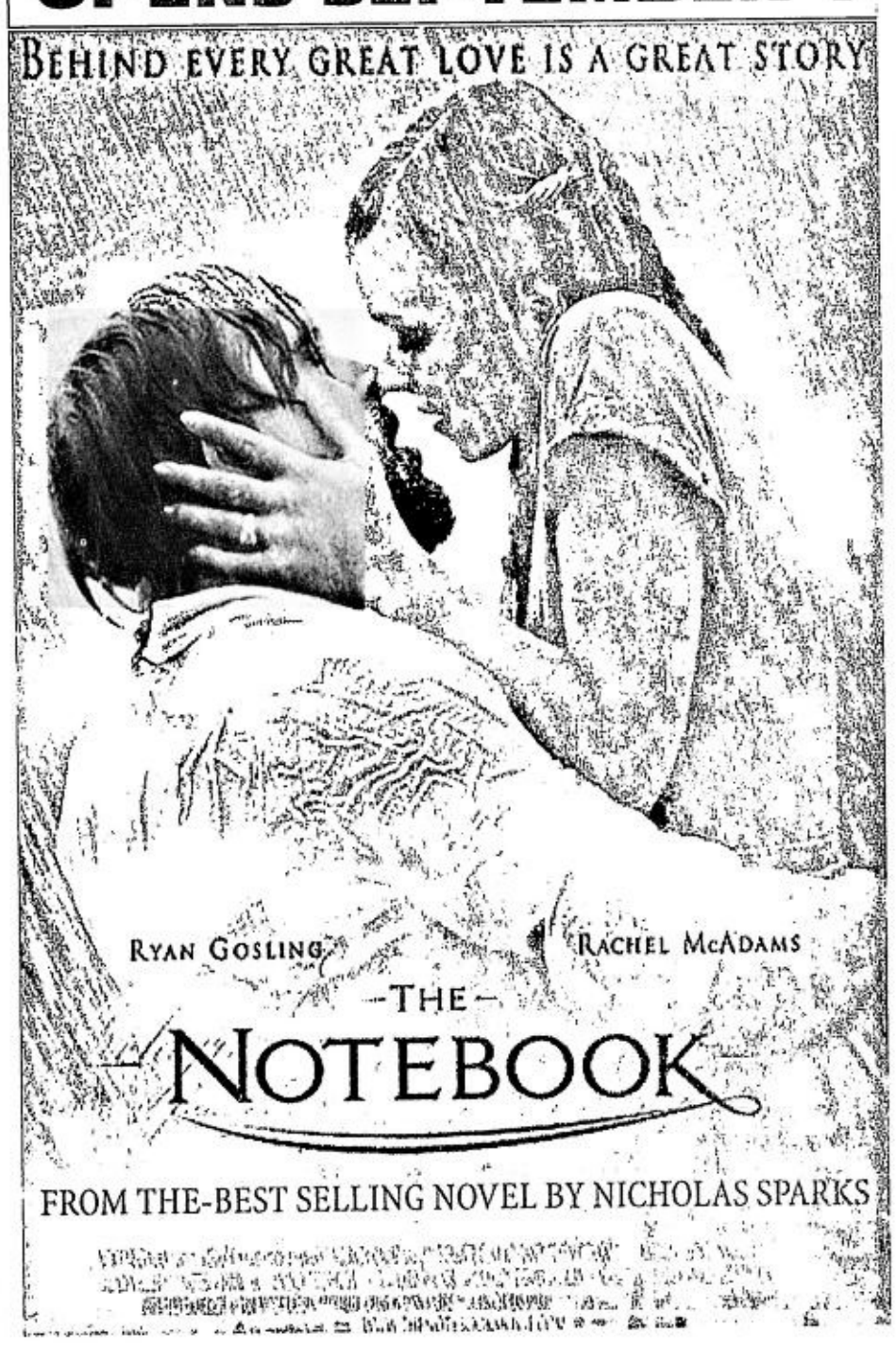

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
11:00 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 pm
4 ALIEN vs PREDATOR
12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
5 THE VILLAGE
12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
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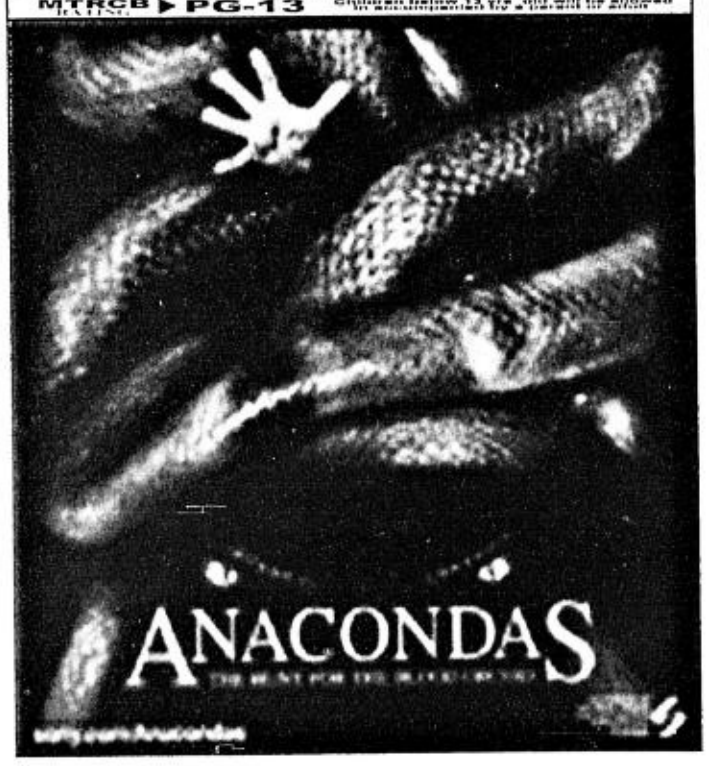

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P60 - P69	7 days	30 days
P70 - P79	8 days	30 days
P80 - P89	9 days	30 days
P90 - P99	12 days	60 days
P100 - P119	15 days	60 days
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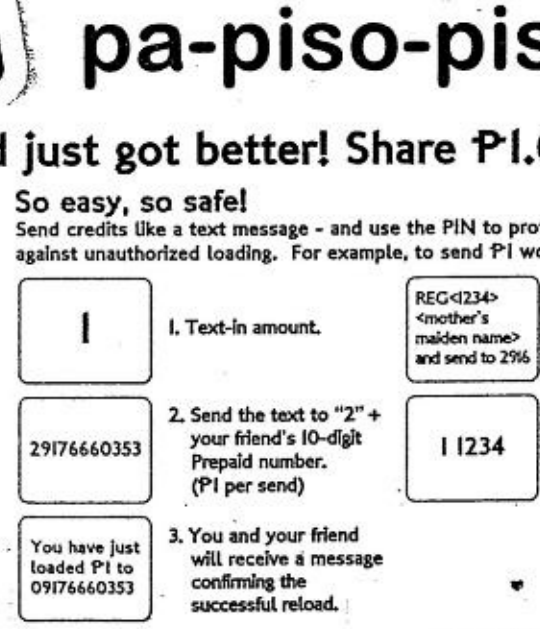

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Sunday BIZ

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

One deal changed history major's course

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ENRIQUE M. Soriano III thanks his lucky stars that he studied at the University of the Philippines.

If not, he would have failed to bag that crucial sale in 1988, which put him firmly on the road to success in real estate and the presidency of ERA Philippines.

FIRST JOB

"It was on a Saturday evening when somebody called the office, looking for a condominium. Since I was one of the few people left, I received the call and I made the appointment to meet with her the next day," Soriano tells SundayBiz.

Soriano promptly arrived at the appointed time the next day. When the initial small talk went to their respective schools, they happily noted they were all UP graduates.

Husband and wife became at ease and Soriano went right down to business.

The day ended with the couple getting a new condominium, and Soriano earning his first sale, with a handsome commission of P100,000.

"We were all so excited that I forgot to get them to sign the check. I had to go back the next day to have it signed," Soriano recalls.

Having tasted the sweet fruit of his labor, Soriano knew there was no turning back from his real estate career.

SORIANO at 15

He was 19 and had just joined the labor force armed with a Bachelor's degree in History.

It was supposed to be his preparatory course for Law, as was the degree of choice in his family.

But he was more interested in sales, thus, his law studies were set aside and he went full steam ahead into sales.

He joined Globo Realty, which was a big real estate firm in the late '80s, with a little more than just a desire to make it big in the real estate business and to fend for himself.

The youngest of six children of a lawyer and a UP High School teacher, prowled the streets of Binondo for clients. Try as he might, he always came back to the office empty-handed, until that fateful Saturday evening when his luck changed.

The 37-year-old was on the fast lane ever since.

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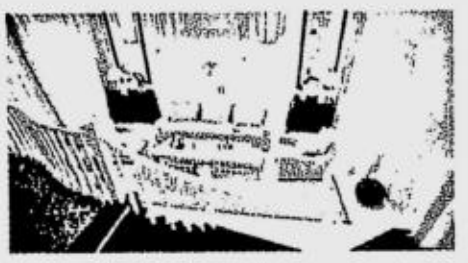

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Abalone culture: When 'sobra-sobra' isn't enough

By Jo M. Clemente
Contributor

NUEVA VALENCIA, Guimaras—What the french call *oveille de mer* fisherfolks here call *sobra-sobra*, a term that fittingly describes what this univalve shellfish looks like but not the quantity of the species in the Visayan seas where it used to abound.

The abalone, belongs to a large class of mollusks (Gastropoda). What is found in the Philippines is the now popular "cocktail abalone" (scientific name: Haliotis Asinina). Like other types of abalone, this shellfish grows out from a single valve. Its shell is rounded with a large dome towards its end. The shell has a row of respiratory pores usually five or seven.

Village folks here believe that a shell with eight holes is a lucky charm as this is very rare. They place it in their rice bins believing these will never go empty.

What's being emptied though are the seas. Overfishing and the destruction of their natural spawning area have made this abalone scarce if not a likely candidate to the list of endangered species. But as this too is a delicacy special to the oriental palate and there isn't enough of this sobra-sobra to be drawn from their natural habitat to satisfy market demands, culturing may just be the key.

Breakthrough in aquaculture

Stashed away in Sitio Guisi, Barangay Dolores here along the tranquil Bay of Guimaras is one of two nurseries in the country where cocktail abalone is being cultured.

Coming home after managing an abalone project for the Government of Brunei, aquaculturist Vincent Encena II thought of putting up a nursery here for one major reason: provide an alternative means for fisherfolks to source abalone and in so doing prevent further deterioration of ecological balance and destruction of marine life.

Vincent says the potential for abalone is very high specially that which is found in the Philippines. "That is why our seas are overfished and this variety is being depleted."

Vincent completed a degree in Aquaculture from the University of the Philippines Visayas. He was trained on abalone culture by Seafdec where he worked as technical assistant for a time. He also did extensive research on abalone and mollusks in this office.

To start up his nursery, he started buying out mature abalone from fishermen, even children, who would have otherwise eaten that shellfish for lunch of dinner.

He placed the abalone on tanks where sea water is pumped in right out from Guimaras bay. In lieu of coral reefs, Vincent placed perforated plastic basins in the tanks upside down where the abalone clings under.

Vincent says the abalone are nocturnal creatures, thus they stay in the dark. When light is out, they come out from the makeshift reefs. They feed on seaweeds.

Male and female abalones are placed on separate tanks but those ready to spawn are selected and placed in a common tank. Abalones ripen every two weeks says Vincent and fertilization is external. The eggs and sperm are broadcast into the water and after a while the fertilized egg hatched into a larva.

Vincent has a separate tank for each level of abalone growth and takes care of them from the tiny microscopic organisms they start from to the thumbnail size juveniles that they will be. Then, they will be sold to farmers for sea ranching and before they can be ready for the export market.

At nine months, the cocktail abalone is still the "fastest growing abalone" in the world, he said.

Vincent says, only about two of the fertilized eggs survive. But this brood on the other hand commands a high 90 percent survival rate, he explained. Thus, when the juveniles are given to sea ranchers, the abalone has very high chances of survival already and would just have to be grown to the desired size of the market.

Vincent says a mature cocktail abalone is about 60 to 80 mm in shell size and weighs about 60 to 80 grams too. They sell at P250 per kilo.

JOINING the abalone are the Top Shell and the Green Snail, Vincent's rescued shell pets. JO CLEMENTE

Potentials

The entire flesh of the abalone is edible. In the US and Europe, Abalone is made into steak or burgers. In Asia, it is part of the sashimi market.

The shell on the other hand is used as mother of pearl inlay for furniture and is also used in making jewelry and ladies' accessories.

LOOKING more like head lice than shellfish, newly-hatched abalone clings to corrugated plastic sheets as their temporary abode. The plastic sheets are submerged in tanks filled with sea water pumped directly from Guimaras Bay. JO CLEMENTE

Over the last 10 years, a steady rise in the export of Philippine abalone to Asian markets has been recorded. Foreign Trade Statistics from the National Statistics Office notes a gradual increase from the 198,167 kilos exported in 1991 to 463,469 kilos in 2000. The shellfish goes to Japan, China, Korea and Singapore.

A decrease of about 30 percent was recorded in 2001 as the export volume went down to only 325,000 kilos.

According to Vincent this is due to the depletion of the abalone in the seas where they are fished. The destruction of their natural habitats due to human activities also made it impossible for them to spawn.

But the demand is still there, says Vincent. Worldwide, the current shortage he says runs to about 10,000 metric tons.

Sea ranching

Like any fattening project, the juvenile abalone is let out from tank captivity, this time to the sea to fatten and grow. According to Vincent a ranch can be a hectare of a sea and right now, sea rent is about P5,000 per year per hectare.

Some parts of Guimaras he says is ideal because abalone ranching should be in the mild part of the sea. A hectare of sea is good for about 14 modules with 15 cages each. The cages are a series of perforated plastic basins strung up and wrapped in b-nets. These are suspended in the sea. The b-nets are zipped so that they can be opened to feed the abalone and closed again so they can't crawl out and get lost in the deep.

This one hectare prototype can hold about 16,000 pieces of abalone which can grow to 60 to 80 grams a piece equal to an aggregate weight of one ton. At farmgate price of P250 per kilo, this indeed could be lucrative for the entrepreneurial sea farmer and helpful to ecology.

Rescued species

On the side, Vincent's abalone nursery is also fast becoming a home for rescued marine species. In one of his tanks, Vincent has a collection of shell animals such as the Top Shell and the Green Snail. Again, these were bought by Vincent from children who fished them out for breakfast.

Vincent says the Top Shell is also an endangered one. "I still do not know if what I have are males or females or both but instead of being eaten I just gave the children money to buy their breakfast. If I am lucky to have a pair of them, maybe we can do something here to help bring this species back on track," he said.

As to the abalone, Vincent says, he wants to see the day when the natural population of this species is back in shape. So his aquaculture project he hopes will not only help alleviate the farmers' economic lot but through his nursery be able to raise as much of the brood and reseed the sea of the vanishing "sobra-sobra."

One deal changed history major's...

From page B1

He made sale after sale and when it dawned on him that he was hooked on sales for life, he increased his arsenal by taking an MBA at the De La Salle University.

He stayed with Globo Realty for six years, during which he became the youngest sales manager at 21, marketing manager at 23 and finally marketing director at 25.

"My challenge was to manage 150 people, many of whom were old enough to be my grandparents," he says.

Soriano led his people by example and it worked to get the organization moving toward one direction, which was to be a major player in the residential condominium business.

On the side, he put his History studies to good use by doing his own research on the real estate sector. He wanted to know not just the selling side, but everything else that made the industry tick.

Soriano also took a look at the socialized housing sector and studied ways to answer the demand for at least 2.5 million houses. His position papers were submitted to policy makers and legislators, to help craft rules on socialized housing.

Upon graduation from DLSU, he was invited to join the faculty, making him the youngest MBA professor at the DLSU Business School at 28.

"I guess the teacher in me took over. I taught marketing at DLSU, which was another area of expertise after sales," he says.

The move came a year after he left Globo Realty to join Property Holdings Corp. as chief marketing officer.

Soriano says his joining Property Holdings was a turning point as it widened his horizon to include coming up with unconventional ways to market real estate projects.

He worked with the group for four years, until he was invited by the Unilab group to be a real estate consultant. Eventually he became the head of the Business Development an Marketing Group of Greenfield Development Corp. at 31.

THE FUTURE ERA president during grade school days

"Greenfield had a lot of joint venture agreements with other real estate companies, like the Ayala group. That exposed me to other businesses in the property sector," he says.

Soriano was very happy at Greenfield, developing new businesses the cash-rich Unilab group get into.

But the opportunity to join ERA, which was part of a global network, was too good to pass up. Not to mention that he was offered the position of country president and CEO at 33.

He was the youngest CEO among ERA's subsidiaries in 30 countries and close to 3,000 worldwide.

He was also impressed by the shareholders of ERA, which include former Trade Secretary Jose T. Pardo, PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco, GMA 7's Menardo Jimenez and businessman Jimmy Tang.

His timing could not have been worse as he assumed ERA Philippines' presidency at the height of the Estrada impeachment trial.

For a while there, he was having second thoughts about the wisdom of his move. But never one to run away from a fight, he forged ahead.

"Some said it was a bad decision but I believed that the best time to jumpstart a business is when nobody else will dare do it," he says.

He cooled his heels at ERA Philippines from October to December 2000 as he prepared the company for its big splash into the market.

By summer, he hired his first employees—a secretary and the driver.

He also successfully convinced ERA's mother company in the US to do away with applying its tried and tested American-style model for the Philippines.

"I told them that the US model would not work here because it thrived on technology and computerization. I got them to agree when I asked them for three to four years to make my model work. If it doesn't, then, maybe they were right," he says.

So far, Soriano's gamble is paying off as ERA has been establishing a reputation in the market as a one-stop residential real estate service offering services to both home buyers and real estate developers.

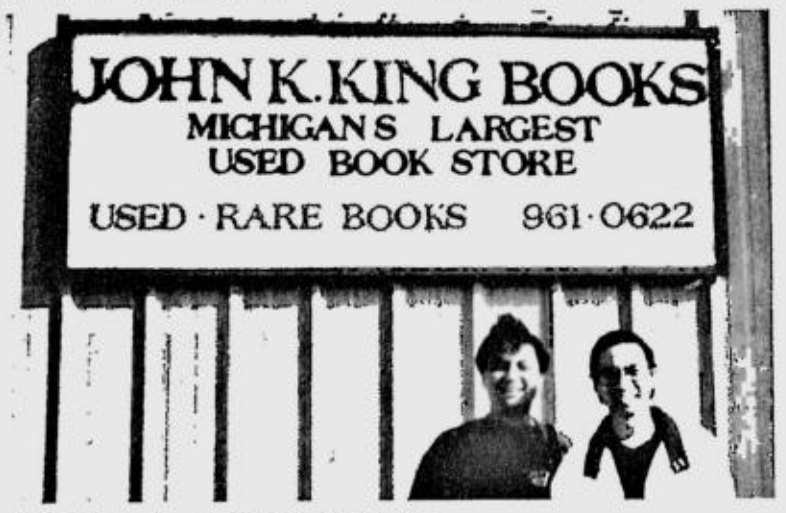
ERA Philippines, for instance, has been called on to lease spaces for developers, help buyers get properties they want and develop new real estate concepts.

One of these is The Paseo Center along Paseo de Roxas in Makati City, which hosts both office and commercial establishments and patterned after Orchard road developments in Singapore.

There are more projects in the pipeline and Soriano is oiling ERA's gears in preparation for another real estate boom.

To this end, he tells his people to work together and always be on their toes.

As he says, that once-in-a-lifetime deal can happen anytime.



ERIC with brother Earl in Detroit, Michigan

BOROUGH Medical Care Institute is a sprawling 1,500 square meter facility with a full complement of doctors and the latest medical equipment.

New clinics provide cure for those sick of hospitals

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FILIPINOS usually go to the doctor only if they can no longer ignore the pain.

Who can blame them, when aside from having little medical benefits, most hospitals are not exactly conducive for a visit.

Not a few would say that they left the hospital feeling more sick than when they came in.

And the long hours of waiting for the doctor only adds to the misery.

This gave rise to a new breed of medical institutions, which did away with that gloomy hospital feel and clinging smell of antiseptic.

Instead, these medical institutions put a premium on convenience, and hotel-like amenities such as comfortable chairs, entertainment facilities and even paintings on the walls.

Service was also upgraded, making clients feel more like guests than patients.

The newly-opened Borough Medical Care Institute Ambulatory and Surgical Clinic at the 6th floor of Cybermall Building in Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City, is one such institution.

The 1,500-square meter treatment center is the biggest of its kind in the Philippines. It is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and offers a wide range of clinical and diagnostic services.

These services are in the fields of ophthalmology, dermatology, plastic and cosmetic surgery, dental medicine, pediatric care, sports medicine, plus diabetology and weight management.

It also has a nephrology and cardiology clinic with a heart station, along with a gastroenterology and endoscopy unit.

BOROUGH Medical Care Institute has a separate eye surgery center with Zeiss Visu 200 surgical microscope, Millenium CX 2000 and Phacoemulsification System for cataract surgery.

Borough accepts walk-in patients, those referred by their doctors, accredited HMO card holders and employees whose offices have tie-ups with Borough.

"We aim to provide quality medical care under one roof," said Borough's medical director, Dr. Gabriel Juan Heredia, an ophthalmologist.

Heredia said that by providing state-of-the-art facilities, more Filipinos would be encouraged to take better care of their health by regularly visiting their doctor.

This would help Filipinos put more importance in preventing themselves from getting sick, rather than going to a doctor only if they absolutely have to.

And many times, when it is already too late.

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:

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by Chari Arespacochaga, September 2 & 3 , 2004

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How to get there?
From EDSA, go towards the Elliptical Road/Circle at Commonwealth Avenue. Turn right to Regalado Avenue in Fairview. Upon reaching SM City Fairview, turn right to Quirino Highway going to Lagro. Go straight ahead until you reach the entrance gate of Tierra del Sueño.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2004

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Hero sees the world in a new light

THE STARS shine brightest when you see them. Hero Angeles, the Grand Questor of the talent search Star Circle Quest (SCQ), can now see the stars at their brightest. Never mind that what he may be seeing maybe his own. One of the fast rising stars of ABS-CBN, the young actor is now enjoying a world without eyeglasses or contact lenses. Thanks to the Lasik surgery that the Asian Eye Institute (AEI) has performed on him to correct his eye problem.

THE GRAND Questor of the talent search Star Circle Quest (SCQ) Hero Angeles undergoes the Lasik surgery.

"I've heard so much about Lasik surgery and AEI's reputation in eye surgery procedures that I've finally decided to give it a try," confides the telegenic and wholesome singer-actor.

Before the surgery, Hero's astigmatism was 300 (right eye) and the 350 (left eye-nearsighted). Taking a break from his hectic schedule and accompanied by his parents Kiko and Leny, aunt Bey Gervacio, and brother-manager Henry, hero dropped by the AEI clinic in Rockwell Center for the operation.

Hero has tried using eyeglasses and contact lenses but they bring more hassles than benefits. The eyeglasses would be misplaced and the contact lenses take so much effort to be fitted.

And so, Hero was finally enticed on trying the Lasik surgery. He needs to restore his eyesight because, besides wanting to say goodbye to the problems mentioned, he believes clear vision adds confidence. Moreover, that will come in handy when he finally realizes his goal to work in an advertising agency. Hero is currently in 3rd year at the University of the Philipines taking Fine Arts Major in Visual Communications.

Initially, Hero had fears about the surgery but he was calmed down by assurance as well as testimonies from previous clients that it is painless and only takes a few minutes.

Socorro Reyes, Asian Eye Institute administrator explains, "Lasik is a procedure that alters the shape of the cornea of the clear covering of the front eye with the use of an excimer laser. It's really one of the most modern procedures for correcting vision problems today. The whole procedure can be done in less than 15 minutes, yet the benefits could last a lifetime."

Hero himself confirmed this when after the operation, he felt like there was no pain at all. "My eyesight was a bit blurred but everything's was clear the next day. And besides the negligible sting that I felt when my eye flaps were cut, there was nothing that caused pain." Hero exclaims in joy.

The only recommendations doctors told him were to wear protective eyeglasses and avoid wetting his eyes for a week. Otherwise, it was back to normal to this upcoming superstar.

Now, Hero is seeing the world in a new light and looks forward to attaining his dreams, with the help of clear and restored eyesight.

For those who want to witness the procedure, Hero's Lasik surgery will be featured in Charlene Gonzales's "At Home Ka Dito" at ABS-CBN 2 on Sunday, Aug. 22, at 10:30 a.m.

KUMPARE ESTABLISHES PARTNERSHIP WITH TESDA, MITC

Kumpare Inc (Kumakalinga sa Mamamayan Para sa Reporma) an active non-government organization engaged in the conduct of livelihood and income generating projects in the barangay is establishing partnership with Tesda and Mapua IT Center. Last Aug. 6, they signed their MOA with their ongoing program - computer literacy. Shown are (from left, seated) Martin Magdaluyo, Kumapare president; Carlos Flores, Tesda district director, Pasay-Makati district office; George Uy-Tioco, MITC executive director; (standing) Dennis Cafe, Kumpare program coordinator; engineer Michelle Casio, MITC program director.

Vivendi steps up drive against piracy

TO PROTECT its intellectual property rights, global media giant Vivendi Universal Games (VUG) had stepped up last week its campaign to get rid of software pirates, a company official said.

Gerry Castro, vice president of Asian Media Development Group, the exclusive partner of Vivendi in the country, said police last week confiscated personal computers loaded with unlicensed games following simultaneous raids in two computer establishments in Pangasinan.

Raided were the Laundry Bytes along Rizal St. Poblacion and the LJ Computer located within the Public Market of Mangaldan town.

Mangaldan Police Chief Maj. Harris Fama said the Laundry Bytes shop is allegedly owned by a certain Arnel Zamudio while L J Computer is reportedly operated by Daniel Bonnet.

Seized from the two establishments were 17 computer sets loaded with "Half-Life Counter Strike, " a popular brand of video game owned by Vivendi.

Vivendi and AMDG, a firm affiliated with a conglomerate engaged in telecommunications, broadcasting and information technology, have mapped out serious moves to help eradicate piracy in the country.

Prior to the raids, AMDG officials and police authorities placed the establishments under surveillance and warned the owners of their unlawful acts.

The raids were conducted by virtue of the search warrants issued by Judge Rolando Mislang of the Dagupan regional trial court Branch 42.

The owners of the shops were charged for violation of Republic Act 8293 otherwise known as the Intellectual Property code.

The latest raids once more signify the serious intent of the two companies to get rid of piracy. Vivendi owns and publishes branded video games such as Warcraft, Starcraft, Diablo, and the world-renowned Counter Strike.

Castro said his company is compelled to protect the interest of Vivendi by pursuing violators to the full extent of the law.

"This will protect our partner's intellectual property rights and contribute to our pursuit of a piracy-free culture," he said.

EAST VALLEY ENTERPRISES CBA SIGNED

East Valley Enterprises, Inc (Evei) and the Employees Association of East Valley Enterprise Inc (EAEVEI) recently signed their CBA which now completes the 4th and 5th year salary increases plus fringe benefits commitment of management to their Union Members. Held at the 1st SLP Holdings Inc Corporate Office at Raffles Corporate Center in Ortigas, the agreement was signed by Samuel Po, (Evei) president , Manny A. Infantado, (Evei) HR manager and their legal counsel, lawyer Gregorio Y. Narvasa II of Fortun Narvasa Salazar law firm representing management of East Valley Enterprises Inc and Woodie L. Panganiban, president of Employees Association of East Valley Enterprise Inc (EAEVEI) together with his respective union officers and their legal counsel, lawyer Meynard O. Garcia.

PAMBATANG SOLMUX OFFERS KIDDIE COUGH CLINIC

While it is perfectly comforting just to see children recovering from sickness, nothing can still compare with the wide-open smile of a child who has, even for just one day in his life, experienced the wonder and joy of a magic show or face painting, or perhaps been given free books to treasure. That is the aim of the Solmux Kiddie Cough Clinic: to provide not only relief from cough and sickness in depressed areas, but also a better, easier life for the children. This is what makes the program quite unique, for aside from the free medical consultation and medicine, there is a conscious effort to make entertainment for the children an integral of the exercise. The Solmux Kiddie Cough Clinic selected barangays are Manila, Marikina, Angeles City, Dagupan, Cebu, Bacolod, Naga, Balara, San Juan and Davao. Shown is the free medical consultation at the Solmux Kiddie Cough Clinic.

Clips

Isuzu Truck Attack

THE ISUZU Truck Attack, will hit the spot with a 2-day display on Aug. 28 and 29, at the World Trade Center in Roxas Boulevard. The exhibition will be marked with a showdown of full-sized Isuzu trucks dressed up with the latest accessories and clad with different body applications. The event will have hourly raffles and product presentations. Seminars on road regulations and restrictions for trucks and buses, direct injection diesel technology, and body applications for trucks and buses will be conducted by different resource speakers. Come and experience this rare treat only from Isuzu, the country's logistics specialist.

UP College of Law reunion

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is the guest of honor and keynote speaker during the annual Grand Alumni Homecoming of the UP College of Law with batch '79, the silver jubilarians, as hosts. The Jubilee class is headed by lawyer Gabriel Villareal. Preparations are now underway for the activity. A class representatives' meeting has been scheduled for Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Wack Wack Country Club. For more information call Vivian Villareal at 633-5138.

Bartending Challenge

CALLING all male and female HRM college students. Join the most prestigious student bartending competition in the country and get a chance to win up to P20,000 in cash and prizes and a month's training at TGI Friday's. Log on to: www.geocities.com/blue_blazer_2004 for details. This event is endorsed by the Department of Tourism. Proceeds of this event will go to the UPJPIA Scholarship Fund.

Max's Merienda Saver's

THERE'S something new at Max's Restaurant - the Max's Merienda Saver's Special. Four mouth-watering combos perfect for "merienda": Chicken Burger with Potato Chips and Iced Tea - P45, new Special Oriental Lumpia and Iced Tea - P45, Pancit Bihon with Ensaymada and Iced Tea - P59 or Pancit Canton with Ensaymada and Iced Tea - P59. Have your merienda for only P45 and save as much as P34. So hurry and have your merienda at the nearest Max's Restaurant now. Promo runs until Aug. 31. Available for dine-in from 2 to 6 p.m. only.

Laundry business seminar

AS LAUNDRY services continue to be a growing business, entrepreneurs have learned to rely on Whirlpool, the brand of choice when it comes to heavy-duty washing and drying needs. Whirlpool continues to support the needs of entrepreneurs venturing into the laundry shop business by regularly conducting laundry business seminars intended to provide the tools, assistance, equipment, success testimonials and suppliers information necessary for a successful operation. This August, another laundry business seminar will be conducted for interested participants. For more information, contact 712-0535, 712-2830, 732-0429, 712-7073

BENGAY, PBA SIGN MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Bengay recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Badminton Association (PBA) at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas to host the first ever Bengay Badminton Showdown 2004. The badminton tourney kicks-off this September. Former Olympian and PBA member Weena Lim, is tournament chair for this year's most exciting badminton event. The Bengay Badminton Showdown is open to all badminton enthusiasts and non-professional players. At stake are prestigious titles, trophies, and cash prizes totaling over P200,000. To join, just present an empty box of any of Bengay's three variants-- Bengay Greaseless, Bengay Ultra, and Bengay Arthritis. For more inquiries call Enrie Legaspi at 893-7472 to 73 or Tad Abello at 812-0887/0917-332-4533 or email bengaytournament@yahoo.com. Shown are (from left): Weena Lim, Team Powerplay managing director; Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, PBA vice president; and Joselyn Conti, Pfizer Consumer Healthcare marketing director.

ProductFILES

Iced tea delights from Nestea

Going Lite?

It seems everyone is into the light lifestyle nowadays. For this, Nestea introduces new Nestea Lite. Now, maximum refreshment need not be heavy, as Nestea Lite is less filling at 33 percent calories. How's the taste you ask? No worries in this area as Nestea Lite loses out on calories, not taste. Definitely, that's another good reason to go bottomless. Feel like fixing yourself a glass already? All you need is just one tablespoon of Nestea Lite per serving preparation. Indeed, light has never been this cool. Available in 16g, 80g, and 400g packs. So take what fits you right. Take Nestea Lite at leading supermarkets and groceries now.

Plunge into dalandan

Ahhh, that distinct dalandan taste. Everyone loves it because it has the perfect sweet and sour balance that hits the taste buds just right. Now, you can enjoy that flavor you've learned to grow fond of in new Nestea Dalandan. This latest Nestea variant is sure to become another staple in a lot of households. Of course, as with other Nestea flavors, each serving is loaded with 100 percent RDA of vitamin C. So next time you feel like cooling down with the taste of dalandan, plunge into new Nestea Dalandan. Now available at supermarkets and groceries.

AGREEMENT SIGNING

Rural Bank of San Jose Batangas has joined the initial 10 rural banks to sign up with OneCard International as issuers of OneCard MasterCard. The said banks will enjoy added prestige by being able to issue an internationally accepted card without the hassles of setting up and managing a credit card company. Shown are the officers of the Rural Bank of San Jose and OneCard Int'l signing the agreement (from left): Wilfredo Garcia, president, Rural Bank of San Jose Batangas; Nicolo Martin Delos Angeles, director, OneCard Int'l and Jose Luis Yulo, president OneCard Int'l

Department of Labor and Employment

NATIONAL MARITIME POLYTECHNIC

URGENT Job Opening!

for high caliber personnel willing to be employed in TACLOBAN CITY

Position : **DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR III (SG-27)**

Designation : Maritime Training Officer

Qualification requirements:

Education : Bachelor's Degree
Experience : 3 years supervisory experience, preferably maritime-related
Training : None required
Eligibility : CES/Merchant Marine Officer with management-level license

(Preferred applicants are management-level merchant marine officers with sufficient supervisory experience)

Position : **PROFESSORS (SG-24)**
ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS (SG-19)
ASSISTANT PROFESSORS (SG-15)

Qualification requirements:

Education : BS Marine Transportation/Marine Engineering or its equivalent
License : Mgt-level merchant marine officers or operational level merchant marine officers with experience onboard tankers
Training : Preferably with IMO Model Course 6.09 & 3.12 Certificates & Certificate of Competency
Experience : Sea experience on license

Submit applications to Eufemia M. Balangbang,
HRM Section Head, NMP Cabalawan, Tacloban City
Tel. Numbers: (053) 321-3356 or 321-3352
Fax: (053) 325-5160; E-mail: nmptac@philwebinc.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
Philippine Public Safety College
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY
Camp General Mariano N Castañeda, Silang, Cavite
Tel No. (049-545-5939), Telefax (049-545-5940)
Website: www.pnpa.edu.ph Email address: pnpa@beltel.com.ph

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY CADET ADMISSION TEST
OCTOBER 10, 2004

QUALIFICATIONS: Male or Female; physically and mentally fit for training; 17 to 22 years old; Single; at least High School graduate or a candidate for graduation by March 2005; Height: 162.5 cm for male and 157.5 cm for female. **TEST CENTERS** 001-Ilocos Norte National High School, Laoag City; 002-Regional Training School 1, Aringay, La Union; 003-Cagayan State University, Caritan, Tuguegarao City; 004-Regional Training School 2, Cauayan, Isabela; 005-Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, Cabanatuan City; 006-Pampanga National High School, San Fernando City; 007-PNTI/FNTI/JNTI, Camp Vicente Lim, Mayapa, Calamba City; 008 -Regional Training School 4, Camp Nakar, Lucena City; 009-Bicol University, Legaspi City; 010-University of Iloilo, Iloilo City; 011-Cebu State College of Science & Technology, Cebu City; 012-Central Visayas Polytechnic College, Dumaguete City; 013-Leyte Institute of Technology, Tacloban City; 014--Western Mindanao State University, Zamboanga City; 015-Misamis Oriental General Comprehensive High School, Velez St, Cagayan de Oro City; 016-Regional Training School 11, Mintal, Davao City; 017-Regional Training School 12, General Santos City; 018-NPC/NCRTI/Philippine Public Safety College, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City; 019-Ramon Magsaysay National High School, EDSA, Quezon City; 020--Philippine College of Criminology, Sales St., Sta Cruz, Manila; 021-Baguio City National High School, Baguio City; 022- -Urios College, Butuan City; 023-Notre Dame University, Cotabato City

FREE Application Forms are available at DILG Central & Regional Offices, PNP, BFP, BJMP, DepEd, CHED, PIA, National Youth Commission, PPSC and its Constituent Units & Regional Training Schools, Offices of the Provincial Governor, City/Municipal Mayor and Chief of Police, PNPA Alumni Association, Inc., and select national high schools and colleges/universities. **SUBMIT APPLICATION TO**: REGISTRAR PNPA, Camp Castañeda, 4118 Silang, Cavite.

----------CUT HERE----------

APPLICATION FORM
PNP A Cadet Admission Test

TYPE OR PRINT ALL ENTRIES Test Center Preference Code:_____

(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name)

(Complete Mailing Address) (Zip Code)

Attach Latest 2X2 Picture

Date of Birth:_____ Age _____ Weight.(kgs)_____ Civil Status _____
Place of Birth:_____ Sex _____ Height. (cms)_____

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT:
Course:_____ Year/Date Graduated:_____
School:_____
Address: _____

EMPLOYMENT:(Office/Address/Position)_____

MAIL THIS APPLICATION TO **THE REGISTRAR**
Philippine National Police Academy
P.O. Box #37, Camp General Mariano N Castañeda, Silang, Cavite

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Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
Quezon City

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

GENERAL MANAGER

FOR
Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(NORSAMELCO)
Catarman, Samar

Qualifications:

- Applicants must be at least 30 but not more than 55 years old
- College graduate in Business Management, Engineering, Accounting/Finance Management or Behavioral Sciences
- Postgraduate or Masteral Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years supervisory experience
- Must be willing to relocate with his family in the headquarters site of the cooperative

STARTING SALARY P30,000.00
Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application forms is on September 15, 2004.

(PDI - Aug 22 & 23, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
Quezon City

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

GENERAL MANAGER

FOR
Samar I Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(SAMELCO I)
Calbayog City

Qualifications:

- Applicants must be at least 30 but not more than 55 years old
- College graduate in Business Management, Engineering, Accounting/Finance Management or Behavioral Sciences
- Postgraduate or Masteral Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years supervisory experience
- Must be willing to relocate with his family in the headquarters site of the cooperative

STARTING SALARY P25,000.00
Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application forms is on September 15, 2004.

(PDI - Aug 22 & 23, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City
Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology (BAC-IT)

August 20, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue is inviting interested firms to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **BIR Information Technology Outsourcing Initiative.** The procurement of and subsequent contracting for the I.T. services shall be in four (4) separate projects. The BIR wishes to bid out the second and third projects, namely:

Name of Project	B-Applications Development of the eITS
Brief Description	The outsourcer will be required to provide consulting, technical and management services necessary to develop a java-based web-enabled Integrated Tax system (eITS); convert its database using the latest Oracle version; develop the transition plan for the implementation of the new ITS and assist in the implementation thereof.
Contract Duration	December 1, 2004 up to November 30, 2005
Approved Budget	Php 60,000,000 00
Source of funding	e-Government Fund

Name of Project	C-Data Center Services IT Infrastructure Provisioning and Operation
Brief Description	Provide data center services, including hardware and software provisioning and operation, communication network provisioning and operation, and end-user support.
Contract Duration	December 1, 2004 up to December 31, 2005
Approved Budget	Php 160,000,000 00
Source of funding	e-Government Fund

Note that a bidder may bid for the two projects.

Competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. The procurement shall follow the rules prescribed for Eligibility and Shortlisting of Consulting Services and Quality Based Evaluation Procedure.

Interested parties must submit their Letter of Intent to the undersigned on or before September 6, 2004. Those who have expressed their interest may secure the Eligibility Requirements Checklists and Forms from August 23 to September 20, 2004 from the BAC-II, Secretariat Rm. 302, 3/F Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission of the eligibility requirements is on September 21, 2004.

Qualified local and foreign companies/outsourcers/consulting firms/service providers licensed to perform the I.T. services required by the BIR may participate in the Bidding, if deemed eligible and are short-listed.

Pursuant to the IRR, only eligible and short-listed firms will be allowed to participate in the bidding process and obtain the Bidding Documents at the following prices:

Lot B Php 12,000 00
Lot C Php 32,000 00

Pre-Bid Conference and the submission and opening of bids will be held at the Executive Conference Room, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City on the following schedules:

Particulars	Lot B	Lot C
Pre-Bid Conference	October 15, 2004, 9:00 am	October 15, 2004, 2:00 p.m.
Bid Proper	October 29, 2004, 9:00 am	October 29, 2004, 2:00 pm

The BIR reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the Government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC-IT Secretariat, thru the Chief, SSTMD-IPQS at Rm. 302, 3/F Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 981-7085, 927-4104, 981-7079, 981-7080, 928-3235 (fax), or e-mail us at lilibeth.maranan@bir.gov.ph until October 28, 2004.

(Sgd.) ATTY. LEONOR S. VILLALON-ROGERS
Assistant Commissioner, HRDS
Chairman, BAC-IT

(PDI – August 22 & 29, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified **Canteen Concessionaire/Caterer** to apply for eligibility and to bid to operate a canteen business at SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

Bid documents may be secured at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **P500.00**. For further inquiries please call at Tel. No. 727-3320.

Pre-Bid conference will be held on:

Date : September 16, 2004
Time : 2:00 P.M.
Place : MRD Conference Room, 6th Floor, SEC Building

Eligible Bidders shall submit their bids in two (2) separate sealed envelope, the first containing the Eligibility Requirements and the **second** the Technical/Financial Proposal. All documents originating from other government agencies should be **Authenticated/ Certified True Copies.**

The envelopes must be sealed, properly labeled, signed or stamped across the envelope flap.

Deadline for submission of bids will be on:

Date : September 29, 2004
Time : 12:00 Noon
Place : General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building
To whom : Mr. Norlan M. De las Alas, BAC Secretariat

Bid submitted after said date/time will no longer be accepted.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post Qualification and award of contract.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposals as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission.

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or less that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOSE AQUINO
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 22 & 29, 2004)

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Trans Co

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2004-009A

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 23, 2004; 1:30 PM

SCHEDULE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET
A1 1 LOT	SWITCH 24 PORT WITH GIGABIT PORT AND 23 OTHERS	3SL-04-091	P 2,069,950.00
A2 1 LOT	UHF BASE TRANSCEIVER AND AND 2 OTHERS	PSMD-S-04-001	P 2,524,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference for Schedules A1 and A2 will be held on September 09, 2004; 1:30PM at the OAVP Conference Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500 00 per schedule starting August 24, 2004. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Conference Room (OAVP), Transco-SL O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until the specified date and time of bidding above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS or a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the OBM Website: www.procurementservice.net and at the TRANSCO Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **G. R. LISTANO**
Chairman-BAC
SL O&M

(PDI--August 22, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MS. LILIBETH SALGADO-MANANGAN (a.k.a. Bea Salgado) whose picture appears above and whose last known address is #36 DPS Compound, 2600 Baguio City has been charged with ESTAFA THROUGH FALSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL DOCUMENT before the Regional Trial Court of Baguio City.

A Warrant of Arrest for Ms. Manangan has been issued by Presiding Judge Edilberto T. Claravall of the Regional Trial Court, First Judicial Region, Branch 60, Baguio City on March 11, 2004 under Criminal Case Nos. 22803-R to 22806-R.

A **REWARD** is being offered to any person who can give valid information leading to her arrest. Please contact Panlilio, Paras, Timbol and Panlilio Law Office at Telephone Nos. (045)892-1779, (045)3225013 or call/text cp no 09215194554.

(PDI-Aug 22, 2004)

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WHAT started out as a doling out of free haircuts turned into a commitment for an association of professional hairdressers ... and it has been 20 years since.

For many, a comb and a pair of scissors are nothing more than ordinary everyday tools.

But for about 85,000 people in the country, the *gunting* and the *suklay* have taken on an altogether brand new meaning—livelihood, sustenance, a career, the beginning of a brand new life, commitment, fun, helping.

Twenty years ago, the Filipino Hairdressers Cooperative (FilHair Coop), an association of hairdressers from all over the country, was formed by beauty expert and businessman Ricky Reyes. Initially, FilHair was to be a simple group with a simple cause—to provide a home organization for hairdressers. Among its initial projects was to give free haircuts to the settlers of a National Housing Authority relocation area in Cavite.

"We were already happy with that outreach activity being our first," recalls Ricky. And so off went the FilHair members to Bulihan, GMA, Cavite, where they were met with men, women and children angling for free haircuts.

It dawned however on FilHair officers that doling out haircuts was temporary. The need for jobs among the resettlers was pressing. The FilHair officers knew if they could only teach these people how to give haircuts, then the jobless would have something to start a livelihood with.

Isang Gunting, Isang Suklay (IGIS) was born in 1984. Housewives, out-of-school youths, househelps, jobless parents, grandparents line up to learn to wield the cutting scissors. From Metro Manila, to Mindanao, IGIS volunteer trainors have given their standardized teaching modules in basic haircutting that include proper caping, hygiene, hair sectioning, winding, and finally cutting. About 80 volunteer trainors, each one a professional hairstylist, take time off from their own salon businesses to render training services to thousands of IGIS beneficiaries.

Classes are both theoretical and practical where students are strictly graded and evaluated before they could move on to the next module and before they are awarded an IGIS certificate. Depending on the number of participants and the location, the training could go for as long as six weeks.

Participants are also given free starter kits with scissors, curlers, cape, and comb to start their new "careers" with.

IGIS participants are also taught the rudiments of the salon business—from financial and human resources management, to investing in equipment and magazines.

Volunteerism

IGIS trainors selflessly share their time and talent. Esther Garcia, FilHair over-all chairperson, recalls those times when she was caught in the crossfire of a gang war in Barangay Culiat, Quezon City. "They hid me under the table and I was very scared. But after things died down, the training continued as if nothing happened."

Ernie Viray taught in the NPA-infested provinces of Samar and Bicol. "They asked us who we were and we explained that we were just conducting a livelihood training seminar in haircutting. They told us *mababuti kayong tao at kakampi kayo*."

Local officials would "warn" the trainors about how grateful the participants could be.

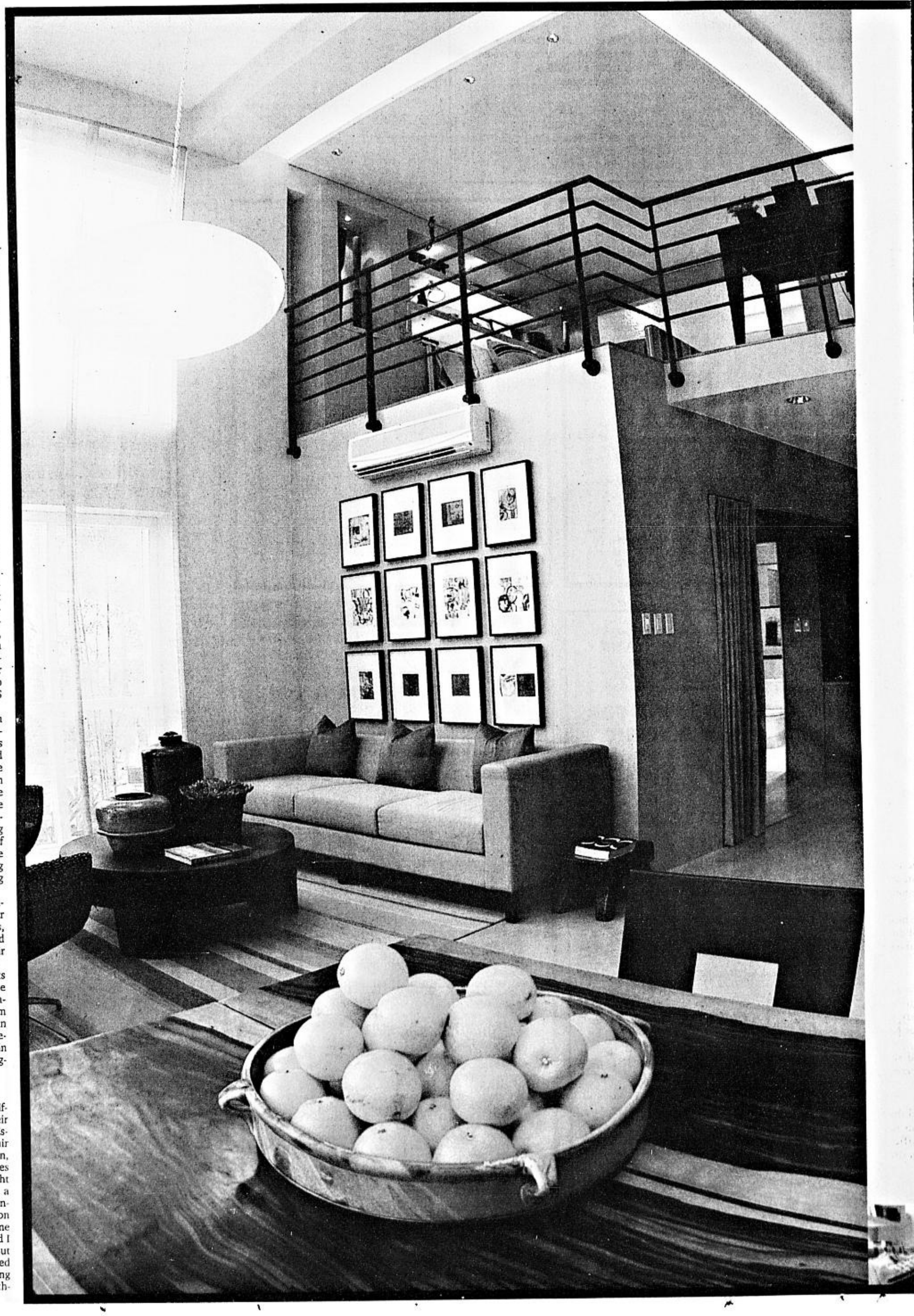
"After the training and the graduation, they would give us gifts in kind—livestock, rice, bagoong, whatever they could give us, to show their appreciation. It is these moments that we consider priceless," adds officer Lynn Yalong.

Like Ricky, FilHair officer Enteng Gaa was a former parlor sweeper who dreamed of learning the same skills as his bosses. When he heard that there was an IGIS in his barangay in Quezon City in 1988, Enteng enlisted and became a diligent student. He would attend the seminar in the morning and would practice to cut the hair of kids in his neighborhood in the afternoon. One time when all the beauticians in his parlor were absent, the owner asked Enteng if he could do it. With enough confidence gained from his IGIS training, Enteng executed his first professional haircut. It was the start of his career.

EVEN the specially abled are given a chance to earn a living.

FILHAIR officers: (Front) Vincent Alcantara, Tonette Nisperos, Boyet Corong, Bong Policarpio, Ernie Viray, Enteng Gaa. (Back) Peping de Guzman, Cely Nepomuceno, Daisy Tavera, Lyn Yalong, Ricky Reyes, Ester Garcia, Josie Gallardo and Shirley de Leon.

"People ask if I wasn't afraid that IGIS would be used by politicians. But I tell them that we don't really mind as long as we are able to reach out. If 3,000 people learned in one province because a politician allowed IGIS seminars, then 3,000 people would potentially have a source of livelihood, then that is OK with us," Ricky rationalizes.



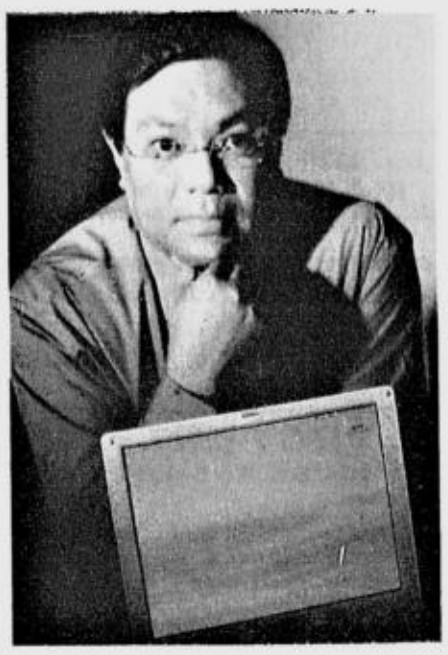
Injecting innovation into the corporate bloodstream

MOST firms will agree that to sustain a company's growth and progress into the future, it must produce products and services that are getting better all the time. What they have yet to realize is that entire organizations can actually be trained in the process of innovation so its members are constantly improving their way of producing and doing things.

According to OTi Consulting, a management consultancy firm based in Singapore, innovators are not simply born. They can also be developed. OTi has gleaned this insight after working with many of the top companies in the city state as well as in Malaysia, Indonesia, China, the Philippines, Dubai and Afghanistan where it also operates.

OTi's managing director for Philippine operations, Romulo Romero, stresses that innovations can be unearthed through the processes of "oppo-tunity" thinking or finding opportunity in "the unity of opposites." The process challenges and questions the current way of doing things in a systematic way so that new possibilities can surface. The opposite or reverse of the status quo is also considered to stimulate fresh insights.

Romero qualifies that, however one derives it, innovation as taught by OTi does not always require drastic changes. A company can maintain its distinguishing traits and products—be it a secret recipe or its quality of service—while implementing significant modifications.



ROMERO: To win, you need to find ways to be innovative. If you are using yesterday's methods and techniques, you may not be here tomorrow.

The consultant specializing in organizational transformation stresses the value of innovation. He relates that management experts in Singapore, the US, Japan, Britain and Canada have zeroed in on it as one of the most critical skills needed by both individuals, companies and even nations to cope with the constant changes ushered in by the Knowledge Economy.

Nevertheless, most individuals are not naturally disposed to conquer change. Romero cites an Iowa study that tracked the life of newborns up to 24 months of age. The research revealed that the infants encountered the word "No" 432 times a day on the average in contrast to the word "Yes" which they heard around 14 times in a day.

"The study shows us how we are oriented from birth to conform rather than to behave and think independently," observes Romero.

A company seeking to be coached by OTi to embrace innovation initially undergoes an audit to determine how much of that quality it already has and how much more of it is desired by the firm. Weaknesses or gaps are pinpointed and OTi fills in the shortfalls by building capability and instituting training.

Contrary to traditional thinking, innovation is not just driven by people who develop bright, new ideas. Studies show that the most useful changes are those that have been worked on by a range of personality types. Personalities generally fall into these categories: those who think of original ideas; those who compare ideas; those who question ideas; and those who think of ways to translate the ideas into products or services. And idea that has been examined thoroughly from the viewpoints of varying personalities are the ones that work best.

"When you understand the process, you then learn not to exclude anyone. Everybody has a role. We just have to first identify what role they play in the process. It's a matter of getting the best synergies," Romero explains.

In the Philippines, OTi has assisted a food manufacturer to lower costs through the use of thinner delivery cartons while maintaining the quality of its best-selling food product. A telecommunications company expanded its base of mobile phone users by tapping *sari-sari* stores as electronic loading stations. Other OTi clients that have started to integrate innovation in their corporate culture include a leading pharmaceutical firm, an engineering company, a petroleum producer and a photo developer chain.

OTi points to 3M as one company that has adopted innovation as a way of life. One of its best selling products, after all, was accidentally discovered by an employee who realized that there was a market for neon colored paper that could stick on to documents but could be peeled off just as easily. Eventually 3M successfully marketed it to the world as Post It notes.

Some local companies have instituted steps to stimulate innovation in their work systems and procedures. Others have tied up cash and non-cash incentives to employees who initiate and implement innovation.

One of Romero's fresh ideas is that as people get better and better at process, quality will no longer be a basis for competitive advantage since everyone will eventually need to master it. "To win, you need to find ways to be innovative. If you are using yesterday's methods and techniques, you may not be here tomorrow," warns Romero.

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Assen Ivanov Giorgiev, who weighs 256 kilos and 9.19 feet in height, poses next to a car too small for him.

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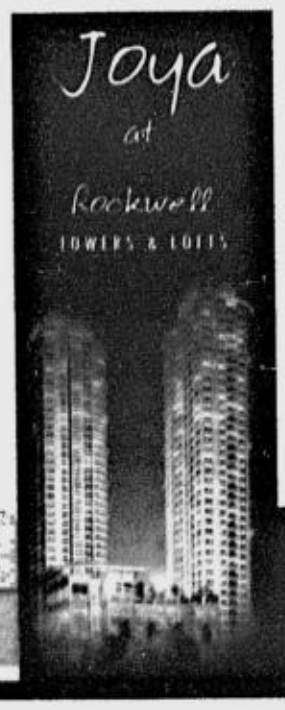

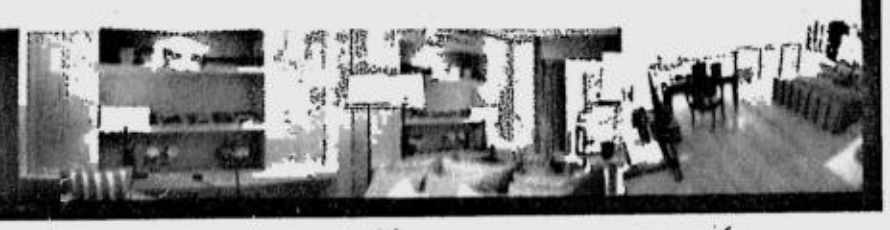

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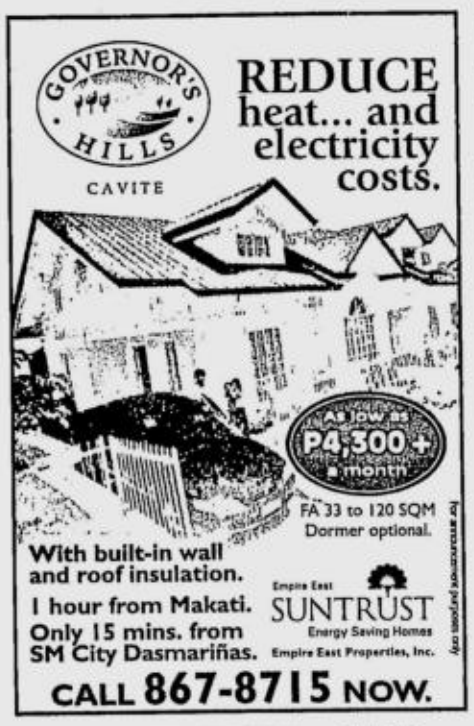

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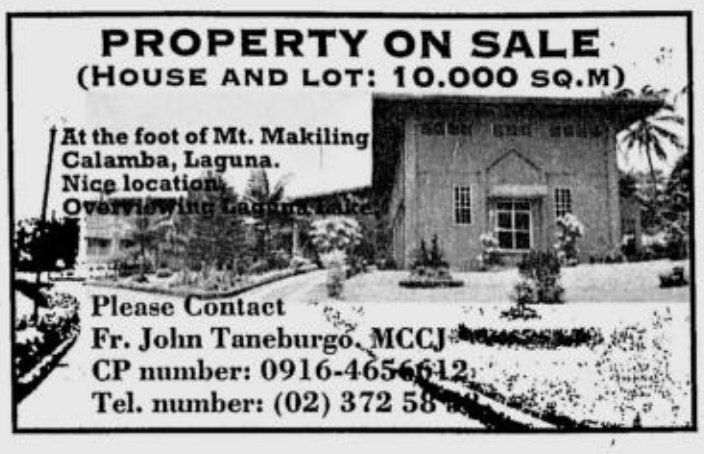

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PDCP Unit Olc 85, 43sqm w/ pkg 3.9M neg. Herrera St Imin. Ayala T-7508291/ 0927-7996662 Rush Sale!

MANILA

NR UST, ESPANA TOWER
6873372 0917-8102903

SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

8Wack² Penthouse 3BR 4T&B 209m² Furnish 15M 660-1058

Bnew, 1,2&3 bdrms, RFO, 4 Rent Units Avail. 09192189817

MARIKINA

MARQUINTON 1M 7250041

PASIG

1.6M Ortigas RFO
P131- UP,10% DP Move - In No DP/0% INT 2-4BR 0920-2621205 / 5 1 4 0 0 5 5

EASTWD 77m² 0919-8261431

MALAYN 12BR 0919-8261431

NEAR PODIUM 0917-6414571

Only 6254/mo; 20%DP 1Y TP 2926137, 09178160250

RENT TO OWN / NO DP, TERMS CONDO Near Fort N' Makati w/High Class Amenities 2-4BR P1.8 - P4.4M w/Disc. Anne Cell. 0920-2360929

VVERDE 3BR 1.8M T9124323

QUEZON CITY

BELICIA HOMES
Teachers Village
(# 73 Matimtiman St.)
P2.8M only
3BR including maid's room; 3TB prov. for attic (exterior completely finished good for another 2 BR)
T-439-6021
439-1995
913-1737
HLURB Lic. to Sell 09080

C. BENITEZ 3STRY 3BR 3TB furn 6873372 0917-8102903

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

New Condo Valencia Hills N. Domingo QC 1BR2BR3BR to move-in only 20%DP Tel. 7508291•0927-7996662

Timog 990T 40m² 20%dp 15yrs 2926137, 0917-8160250

APARTMENT

MAKATI

PONTE near Inquirer
312m² 12.5M 0916.6192933

LAGUNA

2 Sty 3dr Apt Metroville Sta Rosa Laguna P1.7M Neg Popoy 0917-5441746

LOT

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m²
P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

MAKATI

114sqm @ P25T/m² T-8908681

298sqm -Nr. Ayala 890-8681

SALE/RENT 600m² (2 lots) Kalayaan Av cor Masukol cor Makolos 8420885

MANILA

Corner Lot (PRIME) Tondo Manila
E-mail: satmis@cam.org
Mr. Mateo

MANDALUYONG

300m² 8 San Pedro St vac lot Mandaluyong 8420885

Edsa 400m² Hi Density Highly Comm'l Pls. Call 645-3731

PARANAQUE

SUCAT 240m² 715-8833 Emy

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m²
P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PROVINCIAL

100% TAGAYTAY
240m²-up 3,750/m² 13ST DP 6T Mo
Best Loc nr Taal Vista 6609372

QUEZON CITY

1,345 sqm P1,300/sqm San Bartolome, Novaliches Call Myla Olc Hrs 838-3902

Cubao 1150m² Ok 4 Comm'l 14T/sm Wide Road 645-3731

Greenmeadows 634-1212

RIZAL

GREEN RIDGE BINANGOAN 150sqm 2900/sqm 928-1568 NEG.

Nr Sumulong Antipolo 9318318

PONDEROSA Subd. Antipolo 188/m² 3Lots 2500m² 7251752

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

OTHER AREAS

CANYON WOODS
w/Free Membership Club, 10% D/P Bal. 5yrs 0%Int. 633-3948; 0918-9377715; 531-2805 Divine

Owner Selling
6 has Car Pen Property Titled in Tagaytay City Residential has Water/Elec. nr Dominican House of Prayer Call Pilar 0920-6448910

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m²
P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VILLA LIGAYA 149m² & 134m2
P3,534/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Subasta Sale Pueblo Golf Cag de Oro Lot Overlkg Golf 606sqm 2.6M 0918-2534858

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2
P2,248/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m²
P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2
P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m²
P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM
371m2 P2,650/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

Wedgewood 0919-6847094 Beth

LAGUNA

240m² SILCAS TEL# 8217167

Flnvst So.Peak Lot Spl 501sqm P2.6M 09195665377 8070865

HOT SPRING LOTS
LA 175m² & Up at P3,750/m² 30% D/P Bal. 3 Yrs to pay at 0% adjacent U.P. Los Banos Call: 842-9877 • Cell 0927-2946992

LA RESIDENCIA, STA ROSA (311sqm) Call 850-6923 Look for Sonia

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2
Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

MEMORIAL LOT

HOLY CROSS LOT 938-4893

Loy-P 4L@45Teach 09164834182

Loy-M G-ress@55T 8386645

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

Mango Orchard CagayanDeOro 3.2M Direct Buyer 0918-2534858

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m²
P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Bataan-Bagac 3.5H 7250041

FACTORY/WHSE

PASIG TAGIG AREA
LA7439m² FA3000m²
FULLY FENCED W/H2OTANK
CG ACCESS 0917-6251467
CALL 687-7325 • 656-0360

RESORT

2.5Hec Beach Front Property 110M Frontage/ Developed / Concrete Fence Ideal 4 Resort Retirement Haven Nego Financing Avble Brokers Ok 0917-8907654 w/Provisions Fr Electric/Water

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

RUSH SALE
FAIRWAYS & BLUE WATERS
600T NEW PORT HILLS
346SQM RESORT LOT
W/GOLF SHARE & CLUB SHARE
700T ALL NEG 0926-7544807

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

MANILA

PEDRO GIL cor. MEDEL
Highly Comm Xcelent Loc; Bank Resto w/Parking
633-6095 • 633-6167 Jo

PARANAQUE

•COMMERCIAL SPACE•
FA-97.95/unit, Sucat Rd.
T-818423/8127741 JULIET

QUEZON CITY

RETIRO Cor. CORDILLERA
Highly Comm Xcelent Loc. Bank Resto with Parking
633-6095 • 633-6167 Jo

HOUSE

MAKATI

Nr. Ayala 2BR 2TB 890-8681

MANDALUYONG

2BDRM HSE w/Garden & Rm 4Maid Call 0917-8340519

PARANAQUE

4BR SUKAT PRNQUE NR SSH
551-7832 (0920)5117590

QUEZON CITY

25 Jasmin St, Gloria III
Subd Culiat Tandang Sora
9529858/9316076 Ms. Edith

Mindanao Av Bung 3BR 2TB w/grge P15T 9201768 Lading

NrtFrview 3BR P7T 9260398

RIZAL

Robinsons Hms East Antipolo 2BR 1TB Grge 0920-9220228

LAGUNA

PACITA II BLURIDGE 5610197

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

NEW 1BR•2BR COM'L
CLINIC•OFFICE•P6.5Tup
#162 P. Jacinto cor. #39 Biglang Awa
Caloocan 5277616

MAKATI

2BR Antel Platinum Legaspi 8070652 • 4531662

2BR FUR CTR PARK 8447524

BNew Condo Nr D'Fort/Makati 2BR with Parking 12T/mo 0916-4617642, 628-2665 -Mon

Mkt.2br Studio P8.5-P13.5 No due Near Ayala Istpark/Secu 890-6374

NEW STUDIO / Comi / 2BR 6.5Tup 1672 Dian St Mkti 843-9418•0918 9390355 Rose

TWNHSE/3 UNITS/3FLRS/4BRS MULTI-USE: OFC/CLNC/RES/ 1103 DEL PAN ST. MKTI W/GRGE 872-3425 0916-3135877

MANILA

Condo 1BR 1TB FF Nice Malate 65m² 17T 631-0752

For UP-Mla. Students
Furn. Studio • 0917-8160226

P.FFAURA ROBINSON TOWER
551-7832 (0920)511-7590

STA. ANA VILLAS 4BR/ST&B MAID'S RM, 2 CAR GARAGE
T-8184238/8127741 Juliet

MANDALUYONG

SEMI CONDO 3BR W/ TUB + CR W /GRGE LOOK FOR MARLYN
5338536/09163508758

PARANAQUE

WESTMONT-Sucat 1BR•Prkg front Clubhse •0927-2107234•

PASIG

2BR unit w/TB prkg Rennaisance 3000 Ortigas Call 532-0467

ALEXANDRA Condo 3BR 3TB F/F 7213127 / 5325487

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

3BR 2TB grge gd H2O & loc 22Metro Hts Subd Sunville Proj6 7001570/09205218910

3BR back SM North 9261282

SAN JUAN

XAVIER GRENHILS 9316318

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

MCU 2885820 / 09164404038

MANILA

1933 Makata Sta Cruz near Tayuman 2storey 2BR w/TB H2O pump 9124605

2BR nr Espana nr Univ Belt 2BR nr P.Tuazon, near Labor Hospital 421-6593

2BR P8T T5242989 GD 4 2

3BR w/grg & tel nr SM 7152251

CONDO APT 5636296•5610197

Sta. Ana 2218 Embarcadero nr church w/pump 6.5T 564-4101

MANDALUYONG

Busilak/Baranca Nr. Makati Bridge 2BR Grge 533-4786

QUEZON CITY

2BR/2TB XAVIERVILLE 9299536

5 ILNOIS CUBAO U/D 2BR D'way Garage 0927-5349653

N-Mla 3Units 1-2BR 7229573

SCOUT AREA
Commercial and Residential
Call 3730511 / 3730512

RIZAL

New Valley View Exec nr Vly Golf Cainta 8075590

ROOM & BOARD

120 MLA 7118679/4112311

BF PQUE 8257524/24HRS

BIG PRIV STUDIO 6T 7838595

Big Screened P4000 w/garage Mktl 7525112/0917-2090748

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Magallanes Vill. 852-6918

Mkt Male FF/prkg/nice 8979417

Proj3 lady 3T studio 9137513

BEDSPACE

Ladies New Near PCU PGH St. Paul UP PWU • 524-6291 Bernie • 0917-8220343

BUSINESS RENTAL

375m² QUIRINO HWAY NOVA FRONT CHNL5 - 4HARDWARE & OTHERS T:5517809 BETH

MAKATI

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st class 38/57/62/148/185m² 8903461 loc. 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSN DOC OFW 524-3197

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie Emie 8903461 loc 25/23

LOT FOR LEASE

BATANGAS Port Diversion Industrial Lot P20/sqm 2500-18363sqm 817-1589/94

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

Twnhse 3BR 2TB 0927-5277113

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

97BMW 316I A1 525T 7211877

CHRYSLER

TOWN & COUNTRY, 2003, Red, 25TKm excellent condition, well-maintained P1.4M Call 0922-3100922

HONDA

98 CIVIC SIR RED M/T 430T NEG 09175334950

L300 Exceed 24Kms 2003 Honda Civic 2002 34Kms 0927-4726181 / 770-4856

ISUZU

01 FUEGO 4X4 AT ALL ORIG. 635T BLACK 09174632459

MAZDA

99 MAZDA 323LX P260K 415-6051

MERCEDES

MB 260E 0916-3293489

MITSUBISHI

RUSH SALE LANCER GLXI SPORTY LOOK Floaded 2727813

NISSAN

Nissan EX Saloon Matic 99 250 Neg White 09178108294

Vannete Dec'94 No Overheat 87Km 3MTint 227T 8068224

TOYOTA

'00Toyota CamryGlx Very Low Mileage 780T Neg All Power Prem Sound Call/Txt Manny 0 9 1 6 4 9 5 2 1 9 3

VOLKSWAGON

98 Red Caravel 83T km 8901574

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Delica Serena Estima Rvr Town-Lite-Hi Ace Vanette Trooper Pajero Terrano Elf Canter etc financing T-In 8328659 / 09202981098

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

BKHOE kobelco 09277902546

CRANE 40T Hyd 09277902546

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20% DISCOUNT!
MAJOR OVERHAULING
AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION
POWER STEERING & ENGINE
ORIGINAL PARTS
EXTENDED GUARANTEE
CREDIT CARDS HONORED
FREE CHECK-UP!
RUBBERVOLT AUTO SERVICE
115 MIND AV QC 9291514
36 WEST AV QC 3716783
77 VIS AV QC 9247339L20

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

NISSAN Urvan 0917-5444721

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

Toyco U Drive Coaster / Car Vans Rental • 8023022 or 21

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NEW CARS & VANS
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REVO • VIOS • ALTIS • STAREX
CRLA • CRV • LYNX • 536-8822
303-9789 • 426-2278 • 428-4084

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

RENT TO OWN
150m2 Bung 3BR with Grge with Tel. Sta Mesa 6955643

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

AMA BANK

THE LARGEST USED CAR LOAN BANK IN THE COUNTRY TODAY

MEMBER:
AMA GROUP OF COMPANIES
USED CARS
LOAN PROMO
SPECIAL INTEREST
RATE AS LOW AS **9% p.a.**
ACCEPTABLE YEAR MODELS
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Also available:
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CAR - LATERAL LOAN
Cash Loan using your car as collateral!
BRAND NEW CARS ARE ALSO ACCEPTED
Fast Processing and Check release.
For more details
Pls. call at Tel. Nos.
3739913 / 3726526 / 4135777 / 3726698
3733901 loc. 8220/8302/8303

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1-2% Car Loan 0917-8161276

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN 3743803

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8956630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

25T New Compit Sr Implt 7767507

Sale/Rental/Service 8014494

BUY/SELL

Educ Plan - 2528373 Ramona

EDUC PLAN Gle 7800106

EDUC'L PLAN Dang 8061574

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

GENERATOR 156KVA CUMMINS 0916-3417667

FURNITURE/ FIXTURES

Fine Furniture & Appliances Leaving 4 USA 931-8327

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Control weight now 3758986

Tired N Sick? Take RE-VITA LIQUAHEALTH 09178479179

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

5mos. male Labrador pup w/ shots&papers, 13 red marks Kobe, Chuck, & Sunshadow line, call 0917-6915193 or 823-3110

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

G Ret Pups 09185221929

★YORKIE PUPS M/F 8123216

Labrador Pups Call 9425737

WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
MOST SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
JMDIZON MRT/LRT PASAY-7593489
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY
•PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE•
LOW 5% INTEREST

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Repair / Polish Any watch
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5646593 5897041
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Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
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7220433 • 4123543

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Earn Dollars $$$
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is Given that the Estate of the late Spouses Fernando and Luz Mangubat has been Extrajudicially settled among their heirs under Doc.No. 76, Page No.15, Book No. XXX1,Series of 2004,of Notary Public Fernando Collantes of the City of Manila.(PDI-Aug.8,15,22,2004)

Notice is given that the estate of the late Antonio A. Ferrera has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs under Doc. 323, Page 66, Book 10, Series 2004 of Notary Public Dolorsindo I. Paner of Mla. (PDI-Aug. 15, 22, 29, 2004)

Notice is given that the estate of the late NAPOLEON REY HIPOLITO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 40; Page No. 8; Book No. XX; Series of 2004 under Notary Public Atty Godofredo Liban II of Quezon City.
(PDI-Aug. 15, 22 & 29, 2004)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

★ROSA MUNDI★
Liniment EXCELLENT Healing Oils For: Colds, Flu, Rayuma. Good for 32 sickness P85 09182365790 • (02)8954891

NOTICE OF LOSS

We would like to inform the public that SKYCABLE contractor under Marinol Builders, Inc. lost an official receipt booklet of Skycable bearing the series numbers 082716 to 082750. The incident happened August 5, 2004.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1Hec Ricemill Wrhse Oriental Mindoro Nego. Financing Avible, Brokers Ok 0917-8361544 / 697-4430 Liza

ATTN:CEBU CITY RESIDENTS Extra Income 09162-2189482

Be A Leverage Marketer Part/F.Time Free Seminar Potential Earning: 300T/mo. 09194422608 7141425Deo

BRUNEI SCHOOL w/License 4 Investor Minimum Peso 1MILLION • 0917-6278017

Dollar 5.7%/yr. Net
10yr Term Min 2T 0920-9090749

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earnextranow.com code:atb2004 8531008 09178901851 Arlene

EARN P10T up/week - HOW? share d bisnez 438-3309 Jun

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CAPITAL: P500 w/ Free Loads Txt / Contact 09207976167

Extraincome upto P10k/mo7423327

I MAKE P500,000.00/mo
I Need 45 Women to Train with Serious work experience
Call Ms.Tan 8175678 8401182

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In the Business World, everyone is paid in 2 coins: Cash & experience. Take the experience 1st; the cash will come later. Do u want to know how? Text 0919-8967737

Inc Income PT upto 20T/mo3732531

PB/Day for 3yr. 50T Life Insurance 4 UR trusted Comp Emp. 0920-9090749

RTW Consign 09167940002

Since '98 the L88 Grp has helped thousands in Asia/USA to set up global biz to create wealth that lasts. Details @ www.L88edc.com

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HAIR SALON FRANCHISE at SM Mall
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BUSINESS FOR SALE

BARBER SHOP for Sale Pasay Rot 150T 834-1637

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

SECRETARY WANTED FOR E-COMMERCE OFFICE WILLING TO TRAVEL HIGH SALARY EMAIL RESUME: MAXIFASHION@YAHOO.COM OR CALL (0920)6038090

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BOOKKEEPER -Acctg. Grad w/ Retail/Sales Exp. 421-9110

Dentist/Dent. Assist. 8689755

Hair Salon Receptionist at SM Megamall 0917-8398638

PRIVATE NURSE PT ACGTG CLERK SEND RESUME PCTRE TO 22M ROBINSON TOWER P. FAURA MLA 551-7832

URGENTLY NEEDED!
Elem English Teachers
Piano & Dance Instructress
Call 533-4146

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Beautician Proj.3 T436-8305

BSP•BSN•PT•NT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8927828

COMPUTER ARTIST SINGLE EXPD IN WORDS, EXCEL, CORELDRAW, ILLUSTRATOR PHOTOSHOP PREF. LIVNG IN MEYC. BULACAN CALL EDEN 044-9351253, 09175068689

FREELANCE SALES AGNT W/ SELLING EXPD. CALL EDEN 02-2996089, 09175068689

Got a Phone? Earn up to P30,000/mo. Flexible Hrs w/Travel Opp. 8927828

IN-HOUSE MARKETING & FREELANCE AGENTS for Uniforms 8437633 8437637 and 843-7539

JOB HIRING 09196913491 IRA

HIRING : PRODUCTION MANAGERS AND PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS
for seafood export processing plant

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Minimum 1 year work experience in seafood industry, preferably with tuna fish from reputable processing & export companies.
- Experience in frozen tuna seafood export processing, skilled with hands-on knowledge on cutting & production operations
- Experience in tasteless wood smoke processing techniques
- Good interpersonal relations
- Computer skills an advantage
- Willing to travel and be deployed on assignments

❑ **Applicants from General Santos City, Davao City, all seafood producing regions, including Manila, are welcome.**
Interview schedules & venues for shortlisted candidates will be advised at a later date and will be conducted at their respective provinces.
❑ Interested parties can send their applications with resumé/ biodata and passport size photos by post or via e-mail to IanHFC:

Post : P.O. Box 2108
Q.C. Central Post Office •
1161 Q.C. Philippines
E-mail : sendapplications@yahoo.com

JOB FAIR THIS
AUGUST 23, 24, 25 26, & 27, 2004
THIS IS FIRST COME FIRST SERVE: HIRING STARTS 7:00 AM TO 5:00 PM. QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ON AUGUST 9, 10, 11 WILL START IMMEDIATELY.

ALL COURSES ARE ACCEPTED LIKE: ECE, EE, IE, ME, SE, GE, ChE, CE, CoE, OS, Ag. Eng'g., Aircraft Eng'g. Architecture, PSYCHOLOGY, MASS COMM., BA, AB, LLB, MATH, ND, PHILOSOPHY, Legal Mgt., Pol. Sci., Education, Accounting, Secretarial, Custom, Airline Course, MEDICINE, Dentistry, Paramedic, Pharmacy, Med-Tech, Midwifery, Physical Theraphy, OT, RT, Vet. Med., Rad-Tech.

AGE 20-56 yrs. old w/ or w/o experience. LICENSED OR NON-LICENSED. All courses will be assigned in different positions available. APPLY PERSONALLY W/ RESUME at:

235C Mercan Bldg. Edsa Extension Pasay City (walking distance from LRT Edsa and MRT Taft Station, beside Allied Bank and Superbike Motors)
Look for Ms. Bheng Estrada
PLS. CLIP THIS AD (NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Mary Johnston Hospital Obstetrics & Gynecology Dept accredited residency training call 2454021 / 09178935470

SR. ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR (Dagupan-Pangasinan Based) pref. CPA w/ FS experience NORTH LUZON STEEL CORP. •Tel (075)5227877• •Fax (075)5156217• or •Makati 813-8382 loc 709•

Urgent! Medtech/Pharmacist 4387288/0917-4923892Cyrus

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, Saint Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. Saint Joseph, Patron of departing souls-Pray for me.

Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail. Don't forget a thanksgiving by having this novena prayer published.

Thanks for the blessings.

(Regs, Losca & Jugs)

A group of Taiwanese recently came to the Philippines to help spread the wonderful practice of Falun Gong. Since this was their first visit here, they felt very lucky that the YMCA Chinatown provided a place to hold an introductory **Falun Dafa 9 Day Lecture**. But unfortunately, on the second day due to some internal reasons, it was cancelled. We felt that it was our responsibility to continue with the 9 Day Lecture and we found another venue.

We greatly appreciate the help that YMCA has given us and if we have caused any inconvenience to our friends that were attending the course we sincerely apologize. Please contact **(0916)392-8390** for future schedules. Also learn the Falun Dafa exercise free of charge behind Luneta Granstand 7am Tuesday and Q.C. circle 7am Sundays. Falun Dafa is a comprehensive self-improvement practice based on the principles of Truth-Compassion-Forbearance with roots in ancient China. It includes 5 gentle exercises and meditation and has brought better health and inner peace to millions around the world.

www.falundafa.org

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **Ms. Evangeline De Guzman**, whose photo appears above, formerly the chief Accountant of **Sansei Electric Corporation of the Philippines**, a Company which was dissolved by the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 10, 2003, has not returned to date financial documents of the Company that were in her possession, despite repeated demands. Any transaction made by her will not be honored by the Company and/or its officers
(PDI - Aug. 22, 2004)

BATCH JUNE 2004 SALUTES AND CONGRATULATES
ENRIQUE B. CASTRO
B11-L12 LEAD ST., GOLDENVILLE I
SABANG, DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE 4114
FOR PASSING
SECOND TOPNOTCHER
In the June 4, 2004 Licensure Examinations C.P.A. Exterminator Category
Dept. of Agriculture-Fertilizer & Pesticide Authority

Food Terminal Inc.

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website: fti.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles
1997 Honda Civic VTI/USW-934
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For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./ Dick Cariño. Tel.# 878-54-57

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
City of Bayawan
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bayawan thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following items.

BID NO.	ITEMS	ABC	SOURCE OF FUNDS	DATE/TIME Pre-bid Conference	DATE/TIME Deadline/Opening Of Bids
04-109	Office Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures and Motor Vehicles for City Treasurer's Office	330,135 00	General Fund	2 00 PM 02Sept2004	10 30 AM 15Sept2004
04-110	Fertilizers for Rice and Corn Production	2 220 000 00	General Fund	2 00 PM 02Sept2004	10 30 AM 15Sept2004
04-111	Coaster Shuttle Bus, Reconditioned (Japan Surplus) 25-30 seater capacity	1,000,000 00	General Fund	2 00 PM 02Sept2004	10 30 AM 15Sept2004
04-112	Motorcycle, four (4) stroke, 110 Dual Cab (Blue)	60 000 00	General Fund	2 00 PM 02Sept2004	10 30 AM 15Sept2004
04-113	IT Equipment	451,000 00	General Fund	2 00 PM 02Sept2004	10 30 AM 15Sept2004
04-114	GFL Incubation Water Bath with Circulation, Digital, 7 liter capacity 220 volts, Made in Germany	200,000 00	General Fund	2 00 PM 02Sept2004	10 30 AM 15Sept2004
04-115	Spare Parts, Oil and Lubricants	294 550 00	General Fund	2 00 PM 02Sept2004	10 30 AM 15Sept2004
04-116	IT Equipment	343,000 00	Trust Fund	2 00 PM 02Sept2004	10 30 AM 15Sept2004

Place of Delivery: FOB BAYAWAN CITY WAREHOUSE. **Period of Delivery**: 12 Calendar Days upon receipt of Purchase Order. **Warranty Required**: 3 months for supplies, 1 year for equipment. 10% Retention money or special bank guarantee will be withheld to cover such warranty obligation.

In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, the bidders should conform to all the eligibility criteria as prescribed under Section 23 of IRR-A of Republic Act No. 9184.

Bid documents shall be available at the BAC Office, Annex Building Sports Complex Building, LGU Bayawan City starting **August 15, 2004** upon payment of prescribed non-refundable fee.

Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate envelopes in the bid boxes at the BAC Office, Bayawan City on or before the deadline of submission of bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, opening and evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of RA. 9184.

The City of Bayawan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the government.

Details of bid items are posted at the official website of the City of Bayawan: the www.bayawancity.gov.ph, the G-EPS, and at the GSO Bulletin Boards, Supply Section, LGU Bayawan City. For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at Telephone Numbers (035) 531-0638 and 531-0020 local 107.

(SGD) PANCHO F. VILLASIS
City Administrator Chairman BAC

(PDI - Aug. 15 & 22, 2004)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2004

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DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

"Trust in the Lord forever."
Isaiah 26:4

Our dearly beloved

Liza Fe Ruby "*Treasure*" B. Gallardo

(June 28, 1968)

joined our Creator and her dad, Col Leonides A. Gallardo
on August 13, 2004 when she passed away
at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA.

A funeral mass was celebrated in her honor
at the Church of the Incarnation at Charlotesville, Virginia
before her remains were flown back to Manila, Philippines.
She stayed for two days at the
Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church, Philam Life Village, Las Piñas City.
She is now brought home to their residence at
36 A.G. Tupas Avenue, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte,
where her friends and relatives can view her for the last time.

Her mom, **Evelyn,**
brothers and sisters, **Joy, Dado, Patty, Jun, Bong, Gil, Mon** and **Mylynn,**
brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces,
together with her grandmother, **Feliza P. Blanco,**
aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives
request the pious readers to join them in praying for the repose of her soul.

A memorial mass will be celebrated for **Treasure**
at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Monastery Chapel, Laoag City,
on Wednesday, August 25, 2004 at 8:30 AM.

Interment will follow at Maharlika Gardens, Laoag City

"I believe in miracles, do you?"

Maestra WILHELMINA JOAQUIN BERNARDO

Peacefully and with abundant blessings joined her Creator
on August 21, 2004 at the age of 64.

Her loving husband retired Commissioner **IRENEO B. BERNARDO**, her mother **REMEDIOS JOAQUIN**, her children: **JAMES & JANE, MARINETTE & JUNVI, EDEN & ARNELL, MARIA DIVINIA, ERWIN**; grandchildren: **KARL, KAIRA, MARIELLE, JUDE, JACOB, JOHN, ANDRE**; brothers & sisters; brothers & sisters-in-law, request for PRAYERS for her eternal peace.

Her remains lie at La Funeraria Paz, Chapel 5 South Wing,
Aranceta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation shall be on Tuesday, August 24, 2004 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

DR. RODOLFO PARDO GREGORIO

(October 29, 1951 – August 16, 2004)

Wish to express our deepest gratitude to all of you, our friends near and far, who sent flowers, mass cards, letters of sympathy, spent precious time with us, and expressed in many other ways your love, concern and support during our time of greatest sorrow.

Jessie Luna

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 19, 2004

His bereaved wife **Tessie Luna**, children **Lito, Dra. Venice Martin, Minnie Reyes, Ricky, Pip, Capt. Irene Lomboy, Gilbert, Sunshine, RJ**, grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence 3182 Pilar St., Manuguit Subd., Tondo, Manila.

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 25, 2004, 1:00 p.m. at La Loma Cemetery.

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KALAW:
528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL:
635-0219; 635-0220

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.).

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PAZ JOSON BENAVIDEZ

Bato, Catanduanes

Joined her husband at the age of 83.

JORGE G. BENAVIDEZ Sr. on August 20, 2004

Her loving children,

Ellen and **Pilo**
Pio and **Ghie**
Ato and **Estela**
Ding and **Nandez**
Jorge, Jr.
Jeck and **Cecil**
Paz II and **Hermie**

and grandchildren, relatives and friends.

Her body lies in Funeraria Paz, Chapel A, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

MANUEL L. MICIANO

Peacefully joined our Creator last August 18, 2004 at the age of 56.

His wife **Baby**; children, **Jose, Angelo, Enrique** and **Joaquin** request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Imperial Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 25, at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." — 2 Corinthians 5:8

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23-24 AUGUST 2004

EMPLOYERS' SUMMIT ON EMPLOYMENT & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

NEGOSYO at TRABAHO PARA SA BAYAN

PHILIPPINE TRADE TRAINING CENTER

DAY 1 AUGUST 23 MONDAY

AM Session
OPENING OF JOBS FAIR AND TRADE EXHIBIT
OPENING CEREMONIES
Keynote Address
Mr. Tony Tan Caktiong
Chairman / CEO, Jollibee Foods Corporation

PLENARY SESSION 1
"Young Entrepreneurs in the Forefront of the Country's Development"
Ms. Teresita Sy-Coson
Executive Vice- President, SM Holdings, Inc.
Ms. Pacita U. Juan
CEO, Figaro Coffee Company
Mr. Jose Leo P. Caparas
General Manager, Union Square Enterprise
Mr. Nicolaas K. De Lange
President, Designs Ligna, Inc.
Mr. Jose Michael B. Gonzales
President, Agro Food Processing Development Corporation

SPECIAL PRESENTATION 1
" Food Fortification: Opportunities and Challenges at the Workplace"
Hon. Manuel M. Dayrit, MD
Secretary, Department of Health

PM Session
SPECIAL PRESENTATION 2
" Corporate Leadership in Population Management"

SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS
Topic 1: ***" Reforming the Labor Market for Employment and Competitiveness"***
Hon. Patricia Sto. Tomas
Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment
Hon. Romulo L. Neri
Director-General, National Economic Development Authority
Hon. Roseller Barinaga
House of Representatives
Dr. Gerardo P. Sicat, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, School of Economics, University of the Philippines

Topic 2: ***"Gearing Education and Training Towards Full Employment"***
Hon. Edilberto De Jesus
Secretary, Department of Education
Ms. Milagros Dawa- Hernandez
Deputy Director General for Policy & Planning, TESDA
Mr. Filemon Berba Jr.
Regent, University of the Philippines
Mr. Jose Ma. Concepcion III
President, RFM Corp

Topic 3: ***"Revving Up SMEs for Job Creation"***
Hon. Cesar V. Purisima
Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry
Mr. Jose Enrique Tanjangco
Owner, Anjo Farms Inc.
Mr. Alberto D. Lina
Chairman, Airfreight 2100, Inc.

SPECIAL FEATURES Trade Fair & Jobs Fair

DAY 2 AUGUST 24 TUESDAY

AM Session
PLENARY 2
Presentation of Workshop Outputs

PLENARY 3
"Employment Impact of ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement"
Hon. Tomas G. Aquino
Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry

SPECIAL PRESENTATION 3
" A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All"

PM Session
CLOSING ADDRESS
His Excellency Noli De Castro
Vice-President, Republic of the Philippines

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Paolo Montederamos Gaya is no longer connected to **VAXINES Trading** since June 2004. Therefore any transaction with this person will be considered null and void.

(PDI - Aug. 22, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following persons are no longer connected with **C.F. SHARP CREW MANAGEMENT, INC.**

1. **Paul Henry M. Garcia**
   Effective 04-June-04
2. **Jefferson D. Au**
   Effective 30-June-04
3. **Rosalinda V. Lopez**
   Effective 02-August-04
4. **Victoria A. Alfajora**
   Effective 08-August-04
5. **Rowena C. Urmeneta**
   Effective 10-August-04

All transactions entered into by the persons stated above for and in behalf of the company from the said dates shall no longer be honored.

(For POEA purposes only)

(PDI - Aug 22, 2004)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MICHAEL "Mike" TAN ENRIQUEZ

Criminal Case No. 127852-58

REWARD

A warrant of arrest has been issued by the RTC-NCR Branch 161 on Michael Tan Enriquez, whose picture appears here, for the crime of ESTAFA under Art. 315 par. 1 of the Revised Penal Code. His last known address is No. 1168 Padre Algue St., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Please contact 0918-6732348 for any information regarding the subject.

(PDI - Aug 22, 2004)

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OFFSET PRINTING EQUIPMENT - MILLER TP35 Perfector Two Color Offset Printing Press; INVICTA 38-R One Colour Offset Printing Press
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FILM DEVELOPING - BERKLY PLATE BURNER; NUARC P54B Plate Wash Station; AGFA Rapidline 17 Digital Film Processor, LINOTRONIC L330; (2) L300 Image Setters; (3) LINOTRONIC Linotype Image Setters
DESIGN HARDWARE - POWERMAC G4 with 80GB HDD, POWERMAC G4 w/ 20GB; POWERMAC G4 w/ 10GB HDD Personal Computers
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Viewing: Thursday 26th August 2004 - 9am - 2pm
Viewing Location: 2644 A Bonifacio St., Bangkal, Makati, Philippines
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Please bring valid ID to be presented during registration

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

RHODERICK P. ULEP

The Public is hereby informed that **MR. RHODERICK P. ULEP** has ceased to be connected with us effective July 15, 2004.

Any transaction related to us will not be honored.

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(PDI - Aug. 22, 2004)

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate; ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

"Lo que da vida es el espíritu de Dios
el poder del hombre para nada sirve;
Mis palabras son el espíritu que te da vida..."

(SAN JUAN 6:63)

SRA. DA. ANGELITA SINGIAN

vda. de René Prado y González †
hermana de Vicente † y Gregorio †
cuñada de Nieves del Castillo †
y Celerina Prado Valmonte †

Entregó su alma al Creador, el viernes, el día 20 de agosto de 2004, a las seis de la tarde.

Sus desconsolados hijos, Renito, Renán, Ramón, Robert y Marian; sus hijas políticas Vicky y Maritzie; sus nietas Tattoo y Mian; su cuñada Evelyn B. Singian y demás parientes ruegan una oración por el eterno descanso de su alma.

La difunta se halla de cuerpo presente en la Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. La cremación se verificará en el mismo recinto después de la misa fúnebre, el lunes, el día 23 de agosto a las 12:30 de la tarde.

Sunday BIZ

CANDON 'CHICHACORN'

Tobacco farmers' snack goes to top hotels in Metro

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CANDON CITY—Victorino Sy first tasted a native snack called chichacorn (corn snack) when his sister-in-law cooked it and offered it to him while he was kneading tobacco leaves in the mid-1980s.

He immediately got interested in the corn snack because its unique and good taste provided him a possible business opportunity.

Little did Sy know that the Candon chichacorn they were serving as a snack during the tobacco season here would reach the snack menus of some hotels in Metro Manila and bring them a fortune.

VICTORINO and Lydia Sy

PHOTOS BY LEONCIO G. BALBIN JR.

Sy, 51, a former meter reader of the Ilocos Sur Electric Cooperative (Iseco), started producing the corn snack in 1986.

He initially tried to market the product, which he called Special Chichacorn, in ice candy plastics in local schools. He sold the corn snack for 25 centavos each.

He said the name *chichacorn* was derived from the Filipino slang *chicha* which means food.

The product's initial sales were very encouraging, says Sy.

"It sold briskly and the sales encouraged me to make its production a major business," Sy tells the SundayBiz.

Sy and his wife Lydia started to increase production as they received increasing orders for their product.

In 1987, the struggling business got a boost when Dr. Leonilo Singson, father of Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson, tasted the Sy's chichacorn and told family members about the snack.

Leonilo's son, Candon City Councilor Alfonso Singson, saw the potential of the product and tried to help Sy market it in Metro Manila.

Councilor Singson also lent Sy P5,000 as additional capital.

"We just put the chichacorn in plastic bags, wrote 'Special Chichacorn' on it and sent it to Manila," Sy says.

The product began to reach different schools and various outlets in Metro Manila.

The following year, Singson told Sy about the huge sales of the *chichacorn* in Metro Manila and asked him to increase production to satisfy the demand.

Sy, however, lacked money to go into commercial production.

Singson lent him P80,000 which he used to improve a working area near their house in Barangay Bagar here.

Sy says he used his earnings from *chichacorn* to pay all his debts to Singson.

"We owe Sir Alfonso so much because of his full support and complete trust on us," Sy says.

Singson says the product was an instant hit with his friends and office mates at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and with the office mates of his wife, Emy, also a banker.

He says their office mates acted as distributors of the products.

Sy says producing the *chichacorn* entails hard work and long hours.

"I cry every time I recall the struggles that me and my wife went through when we were starting the business. We were lucky to have three hours of sleep then," Sy says.

Producing chichacorn requires extensive labor, he says.

The glutinous or native corn is boiled for at least four hours before it is rinsed and soaked for another four to five hours to smoothen it. After the process, the corn is dried for three to four days before it is fried and flavored.

In 1992, Sy retired from Iseco to concentrate on chichacorn production. It was also the year when they improved on their product's packaging. Each pack, at that time, was sold at P17 per of 370 grams.

Sy says they received bulk orders in the '90s as it was practically only his family producing the *chichacorn*. Sales reached about P100,000 a month.

In was not too long when the Sy couple's hard work began paying off. In 1997, they began building their dream house in Barangay San Agustin.

The lot was purchased through Sy's retirement benefits from Iseco while the two-year construction of the three-story house (with a swimming pool on the third floor) came from their earnings in selling chichacorn.

They also built a warehouse and factory in their compound, bought vehicles and were able to send their three children to school.

The couple's success also rubbed off on others, as many Candon residents produced their own version of the product.

There are at least seven Candon chichacorn makers in the city and some are giving them stiff competition.

It was during the entry of other producers that Sy changed the name of his product, from the generic "Special Chichacorn" to "LSJ Kornik."

He derived the product name from the initials of his children's name—Lorena, Sheryl and Janice.

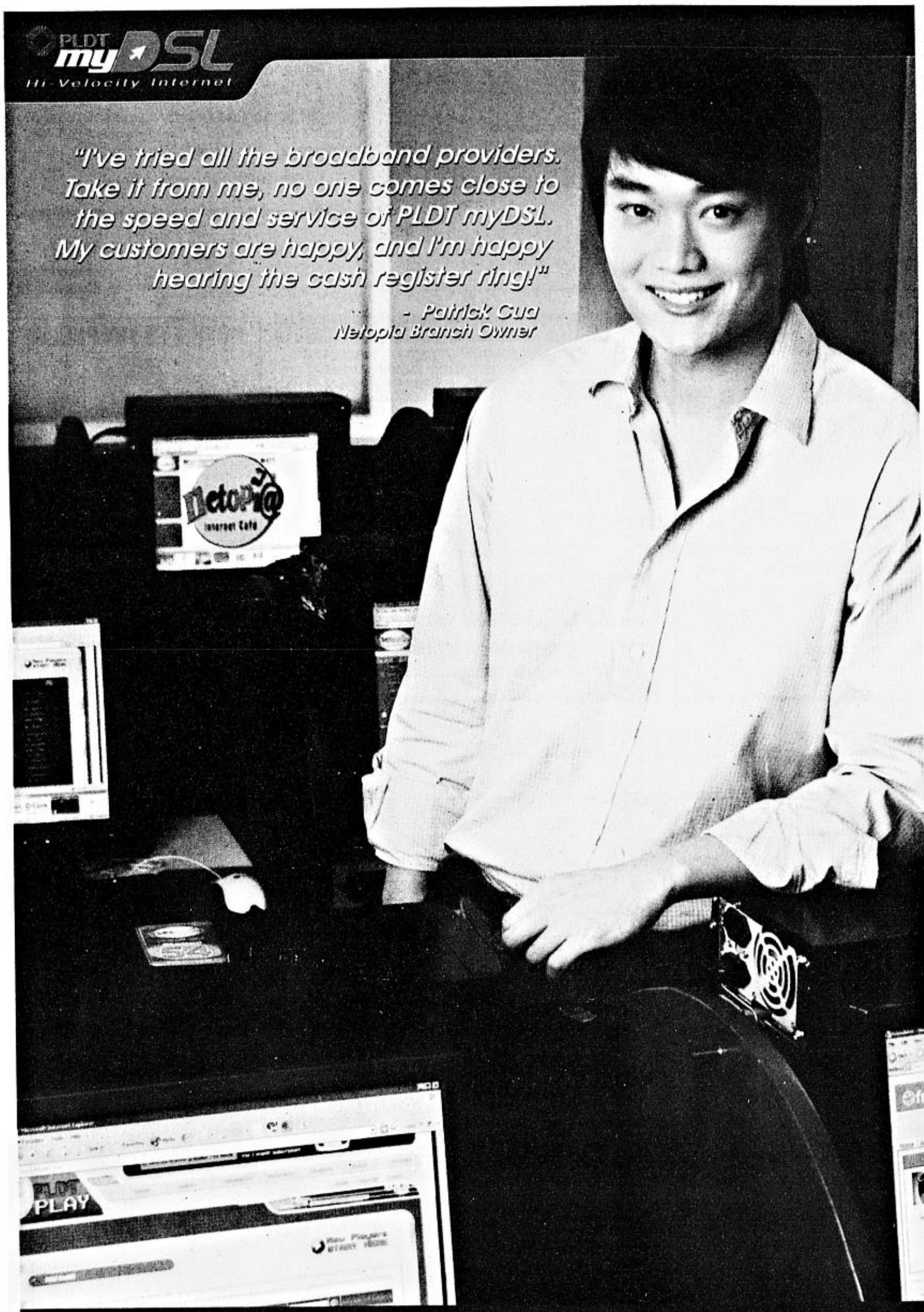
Sy made sure to make his product's price competitive at P20 to P30 a pack. His chichacorn comes in spicy adobo garlic, adobo garlic, sweet, sweet and spicy, and cheese flavors.

Sy says retailers usually add P5 when they resell it.

The city government also bought a packing machine to help chichacorn producers in the city.

Former Mayor Grace Singson says packaging is a vital requirement for different products to be more competitive and necessary to enter the international market.

THE MAKING of Candon chichacorn at the LSJ Kornik Factory in Candon City, Ilocos Sur



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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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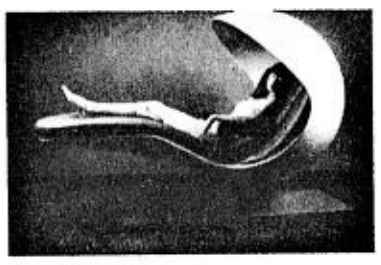

METRONAPS and other must-haves
/H1

Our Lady's Meldy

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

WHY is Imelda O. Cojuangco so excited to be on the scene again?

Well, for one, there's her friend Pitoy Moreno's forthcoming fashion retrospective to benefit the Cultural Center of the Philippines of which she is a prime patroness. Her participation in the Moreno show, however, is theoretically a done deal because after she spoke at a

OUR LADY/ C2

Earthquake rocks a neighborhood!

Cause of unusual tremors investigated

AN UNUSUAL phenomenon occurred yesterday when an earthquake hit only an isolated area of a neighborhood in Manila.

According to eyewitnesses, the tremors were felt only in one building and nearby structures. Most of the damage occurred in the Century Condominium building and an electrical post nearby.

Jackie Lou Blanco, actress and fitness expert who lives in the Century building was shocked to see the damage in the different floors.

"I was home, but I didn't feel the earthquake. Maybe I was too busy eating 555 Carne Norte! I was enjoying it so much because it was so delicious. Plus I was listening to great music the whole time, tapping my feet..."

Investigations have shown that the source of the earthquake was highly extraordinary. It seemed to have emanated from the third floor of the building, particularly in the unit where Ms. Blanco lives. Experts on the scene say that a strong force coming from that area caused the tremors and the subsequent damage. Upon further questioning, Ms. Blanco maintained that she was not aware of the earthquake during its occurrence, that indeed she was just eating 555 Carne Norte and tapping her feet to music at that time.

AFTERSHOCKS. The damage on the residential street hit by the mysterious earthquake.

The Century Tuna tradition continues with another round of culinary competition for the whole family.

Entry forms are available at leading supermarkets

For more details on the cooking competition contact:

Century Tuna Culinary Club
Tel. No. 637 8974
Email: culinary@centurytuna.com.ph

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AT HER 1997 second papal award, with Bishops Teodoro Bacani and Maximiano Cruz, Cardinals Ricardo Vidal and Jaime Sin, Archbishop Oscar Cruz and Bishop Nestor Cariño

Our Lady's Meldy

THE PATRONESS of the arts and staunch Marian devotee fixes the image of Nuestra Señora de las Flores in her home, shown here without hair and wearing her "pambahay" as it is readied for grooming before the fundraising dinner on Sept. 29 where she will be exhibited in all her glory, silver cape and all. ERNIE SARMIENTO

From page C1

luncheon among friends and the media to ask for a show of support, ticket sales went briskly.

Now the thing that's got Meldy—as she is fondly called in the circles that count (as in houses, cars, board seats, bling-blings, etc.)—all fired up is planning the series of festivities to usher in the silver anniversary of the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion, a foundation that she formed so there would be a ready group of Marian devotees to organize the yearly procession for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8.

The string of events will not be as long as a rosary, but going by Meldy's track record in partying for philanthropy, it will surely be noteworthy.

"Nothing happens without a reason," says Cojuangco over home-cooked lunch at her Forbes Park home. "When we found out that our 25th anniversary coincided with the 150th year of the promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, we got excited. The church is celebrating in a very festive way, and Cofradia cannot do less."

On Sept. 29, Meldy and her congregation will host "Noche Para La Virgen Maria," a gala dinner that kick-starts the Cofradia's silver anniversary celebration.

Five hundred guests are expected at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio that evening to delight in the floral designs of Robert Blancaflor, Rachy Cuna, Antonio Garcia, Toni Parsons and Ponce Veridiano. The magnificent five have been invited to decorate the images and *carrozas* to be displayed that night, not to mention the table centerpieces. King Louie will supply all the flowers from Baguio.

Star billing

To get star billing at the dinner are not the Beautiful People, for once, but five Marian images: Cojuangco's own Nuestra Señora de las Flores plus La Inmaculada Concepcion Mater Purisima (owned by the Intramuros Administration); Nuestra Señora de la Victoria, (Dona Victoria S. vda de Tengco); Nuestra Senor del Santisimo Rosario (Aliño family); Nuestra Señora del Rosario de San Pablo (Escudero family).

On the evening's menu is not just food by Mandarin Oriental Manila but also Broadway music to be played by members of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, a mini concert by Robert Seña with his wife Isay Alvarez and an exhibit of Madonna and Child glass sculptural pieces specially crafted for the occasion by artist Ramon Orlina.

Guests will have the pleasure of all of the above in exchange for a donation that will help defray the costs of Cofradia's litany of outreach and apostolic programs in the days to come.

And this is why Meldy is up and about, despite the osteoporosis (compounded by arthritis) that has slowed her down in recent years. She wants the fundraising dinner to be successful. Indeed, if she can do it for others, why not for something close to her heart?

Big-time fundraisers are always trying to get Imelda Cojuangco on their side and, of course, no one can blame them. People generally have the perception that she can bankroll a crusade of any proportion on her own, and they're right (Cojuangco did pay for Dom Martin's exhibit of church vestments a few years ago). But as any savvy fundraiser knows, it takes more than just a fat checkbook to show you the money. It also takes time, connection and charm—all of which Cojuangco has in ample supply.

Trust a Cojuangco-led charity event to draw the haves and the well-placed, the do-gooders and the desperate-to-impress because about the only time they can rub elbows with the stylish Meldy Cojuangco is when she throws a bash and asks for donations to a good cause.

The Cofradia hosts no *sosyalan* to speak of, unless you consider the grand December procession a social event. "We just call our members when we're planning for the procession, or when we need to meet because someone has asked for our help," says Cojuangco.

Instead of dressing up in formals and hosting opulent balls, the Cofradia's lifetime members, of whom there are 94, dress down for hands-on involvement in, say, arranging for the celebration of the Mass at the Correctional Institute for female inmates or refurbishing the chapel at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

First communicants

Or they would be off to some underserved area like Payatas or Tondo to herd 500 school children toward their first Holy Communion. In fact, Meldy and her friends have made it their yearly apostolic duty to give these boys and girls from poor families catechism, teach them religious songs and how to follow the Mass to prepare them for their first taste of the Eucharist. Cofradia members also throw in snacks, sacks of rice and gift bags, including clothes and shoes that the kids can wear on the big day.

The Cofradia hopes that through their First Holy Communion apostolate, more children will learn about God. If 100 kids out of the 500 grow up to be religious and God-loving, says Meldy, "*masaya na kami*."

She recalls their first communicants from the hills of Baliuag, Bulacan. "You would think that Baliuag is so close to Manila but for most of those children, it was their first time to wear shoes, their first time to come down from the mountains, their first time to ride in a bus."

The Cofradia has also awarded scholarships to deserving street children from the Pangarap Shelter, supplied the Bahay Kalinga a center for homeless children under Monsignor Jerome Reyes, with washing machines, and supported the publication of "Prusisyon," a book on Marian devotion in the Philippines written by Jimmy Laya and Lulu Castaneda.

OFFERING flowers to the Virgin Mary at her first papal award in 1995.

The grand Marian procession, however, remains the hallmark of the Cofradia's existence. Every year on the first Sunday of December, no matter if the economy is down and the crime rate is up, images of the Blessed Mother are paraded down the streets of Intramuros in festive *carrozas*.

"Our procession gets more beautiful every year," notes Meldy with pride. Contrary to popular notion, Meldy says, "We are not elitist. Whole barangays come to join our procession, how can we be called elitist? They come by the busload. We get *carrozas* from Marinduque, from as far as Mindanao. You should see our *carroza* owners. They're not rich. They save up all year to be able to transport their carriages. People from the provinces look forward to our procession."

If a family cannot afford the expense involved in parading their *carroza*, which almost always is a family heirloom, Cofradia members usually help out. "Ideally, we should limit the procession to 50 images," says Meldy, "but how can you turn them away when they show up with their *carrozas* all decorated? People bring their own flowers, and they're usually fresh flowers. Sometimes they even have fireworks."

In the early years, the procession was held in Luneta. But the venue changed when Cofradia member Ado Escudero, ever the astute researcher, pointed out that the original Spanish tradition was to hold the procession for the soldiers in Intramuros, a neighborhood rich in history.

It used to be too that the *hermana mayor* for the procession gifted the Blessed Mother's image with jewelry. When Meldy was *hermana*, she gave a diamond solitaire. The list of Cofradia hermanas and hermanos through the years includes Helen Espino, Amparo Aspiras, Meldy's sister Carmencita Reyes, Gretchen Cojuangco, Salud Tesoro, Danilo Dolor, Helen Ong, Nene Leonor, Viring de Asis, Marietta Santos, Alice Briones and Escudero, among others.

Devotee

One of Cojuangco's grandchildren, upon seeing her wearing a white terno and blue necklace, the regulation attire for Cofradia members during the Marian procession, once asked, "Are you the Virgin Mary?"

Meldy is neither a Mary nor a virgin, of course, and she has the sense of humor to accept it. But one thing she has always been is a believer, and her faith has fired the charity and community actions that have earned her two papal awards, first in 1995 (Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross) and then in 1997 (Grand Dame of the Pontifical Order of St. Sylvester).

Meldy says she has always been a Marian devotee. "Even after I married and I would worry about my children and husband, I would always run to her." She remembers going to the church in Baclaran to pray to Our Lady of Perpetual Help with her late husband, Ramon Cojuangco, the man who shepherded the large working flock at the Philippine Long Distance Telephone until his cancer took its toll.

> No one breathes life into a cause like the iconic Cojuangco, and those whom she has helped wish that there were indeed a little of this Imelda in all of us

To this day, the rosary is prayed in the Cojuangco household. The help take turns in leading, Meldy says, and those who don't know the prayers in English do so in Tagalog.

In the Cojuangco home also resides Nuestra Señora de las Flores, the image that brings up the rear during the December procession. Meldy says she bought the image from antique dealer. "I saw the head and the hands of this image. *Ang ganda ng mukha*." She had a body made and, after respectful restoration, the statue became known as Nuestra Señora de las Flores, so named because her owner liked to wear flowers in her hair. Cojuangco also has a *carroza* for the image.

The rosary, the images, the procession and all other rituals devoted to Mary are by no means unique to the Cojuangco family. Meldy thinks there are hordes of Marian devotees in the country "because as a people *maka-ina tayo*."

In fact, it was in Rizal Park that the world celebrated the golden anniversary of the Family Rosary Crusade in 1992. Fr. Patrick Peyton (who is now a candidate for sainthood) annointed Cojuangco as head of the festivities as he was dying. He didn't err in his choice. The highlight of that event was easily the Cofradia's Marian procession.

Four years ago, Jaime Cardinal Sin issued a decree recognizing the Cofradia as a canonical association of the Archdiocese of Manila. And to think that when Meldy Cojuangco first formed the group, all she thought she was doing was racking up friends who would help her get a procession going every December.

E-mail the author at cbformoso@inquirer.com.ph

WITH members of the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion in 1995: Imelda Reyes and Rory Eizmendi (seated) and Sonya Mathay, Lulu Castaneda, Liz Santos, Zita Feliciano, Nenuca Blardony, Eloisa Yan, Corinna Caparas, Charito Paz and Nitang Lim

WITH fellow members of the ad hoc committee for Cofradia's 25th anniversary Fe Rodriquez, event chair, Danny Dolor and Helen Ong, co-chair

Innovative pre-school program earns 'five-star' rating

WHEN Childstart International was opened 20 years ago by Cynthia Gonzalez in her parents' home in White Plains, Quezon City, it had only six students.

Today, the pre-school has three branches, including one in a five-star hotel, and 100 students.

Gonzalez was an early proponent of alternative learning for young children. She said alternative learning meant providing educational experiences that were rich in creativity, self-expression and motivation.

Childstart encourages kids to be creative and independent thinkers, as well as resourceful problem-solvers.

Gonzalez, who runs schools in White Plains and Paseo de Roxas, opened recently a branch at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. The hotel's general manager, Shane Cunning, heard of Childstart's Smart Start program and invited the school to open a branch at Westin.

Initially, Childstart had a tough time in a field dominated by pre-schools using the traditional or rigid approach. Eventually, Gonzalez said parents saw that the school's combination of age-appropriate and creative activities, skilled and trained teachers, and stimulating school environment made children independent, creative, resourceful, confident, and eager to learn.

Childstart has a 10-month regular program, as well as a summer schedule. It is located at #22 Yellowstone St., White Plains, QC, 9115896; #67 Paseo de Roxas St., Makati, 8106419; Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex, Manila, 8326916.

CYNTHIA Hinsay Gonzalez

Fun after-school religious formation

THE AFTER-SCHOOL Catholic Religious Formation Program is designed to help children and young adolescents build inner strength as they search for meaning in the world.

The Religious Formation Program does not merely employ the usual catechism lecture. The program is modular and is characterized by a balanced synthesis of doctrine, morals and worship, employing experiential activities and interactive discussions.

These activities include fun and meaningful structured learning experiences, music, art, drama and even science experiments that engender deep insights about God and life.

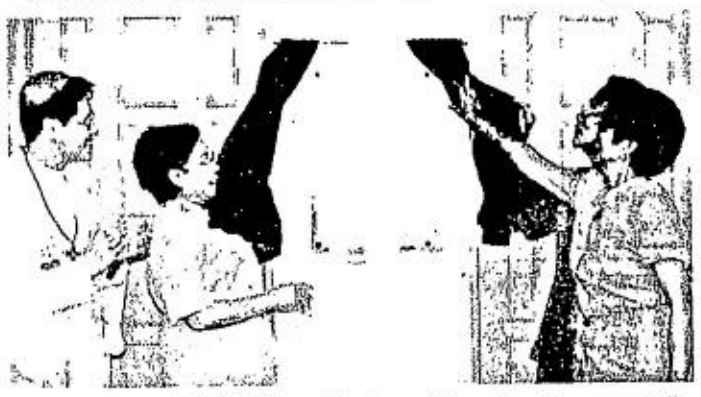
Participants are encouraged to freely bring to the open all their questions and insights to be processed in the group. Each session ends with different forms of prayer and worship, such as meditation and group para-liturgies. Other related services include preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Exposures and community involvement and service activities are a crucial part of the program, allowing for deeper integration and expression of a responsive faith that is lived out in daily life and stewardship.

Moreover, the modules are designed according to the cognitive, emotional, social and spiritual developmental stage of each group of participants.

The formation program is open to all children and young adolescents aged 4½-14 years old. Sessions will be held once a week on weekends and weekdays. The number of participants is limited to 10 per session.

Call 8819032 or 8819034.



SCHOOL donor Felicidad Sy and lot donor Remedios Monzon unveil the marker of Our Lady of the Pillar Catholic School. With them are Bishop Tagle and school principal Lourdes Villafuerte.

School for poor children in Imus

SM Foundation is the socio-civic arm of the SM Group of Companies. Education is one of its four areas of advocacy, and its College Scholarship Program has sent around 400 scholars to school and donated school buildings and learning programs to public schools.

Felicidad Sy, wife of SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr., who initiated the project, graced the blessing and turnover ceremonies of another beneficiary school, Our Lady of the Pillar Catholic School in F. Tirona Street, Poblacion 11-A in Imus, Cavite.

The Bishop of Imus, the Most Reverend Luis Antonio Tagle, gave the blessing, which was followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the unveiling of the school's marker by Sy and Remedios Monzon, the donor of the lot.

Also present were Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, SM Prime Holdings chair Hans Sy and wife Carol, Debbie Sy and Mila Tagle.

The three-story schoolhouse, which has 12 rooms and a playground, was conceptualized "exclusively for the use of poor children," says Bishop Tagle. "The parents are not obliged to pay tuition, but are rather given a scale wherein they can choose the amount they pay."

Our Lady of the Pillar Catholic School's mission and vision is displayed in all the rooms. It aims to help in the holistic development of children through Christian values, forming them to be intellectually, socially, mentally and spiritually integrated persons capable of coping with the changing world.

The school now has 900 pupils from kindergarten to the fourth grade.

CAVITE Gov. Ayong Maliksi and SM Prime Holdings' Hans Sy

SM's Carol Sy with Imus Bishop Antonio Tagle

SM Foundation's Debbie Sy, Maria Tagle and Felicidad Sy

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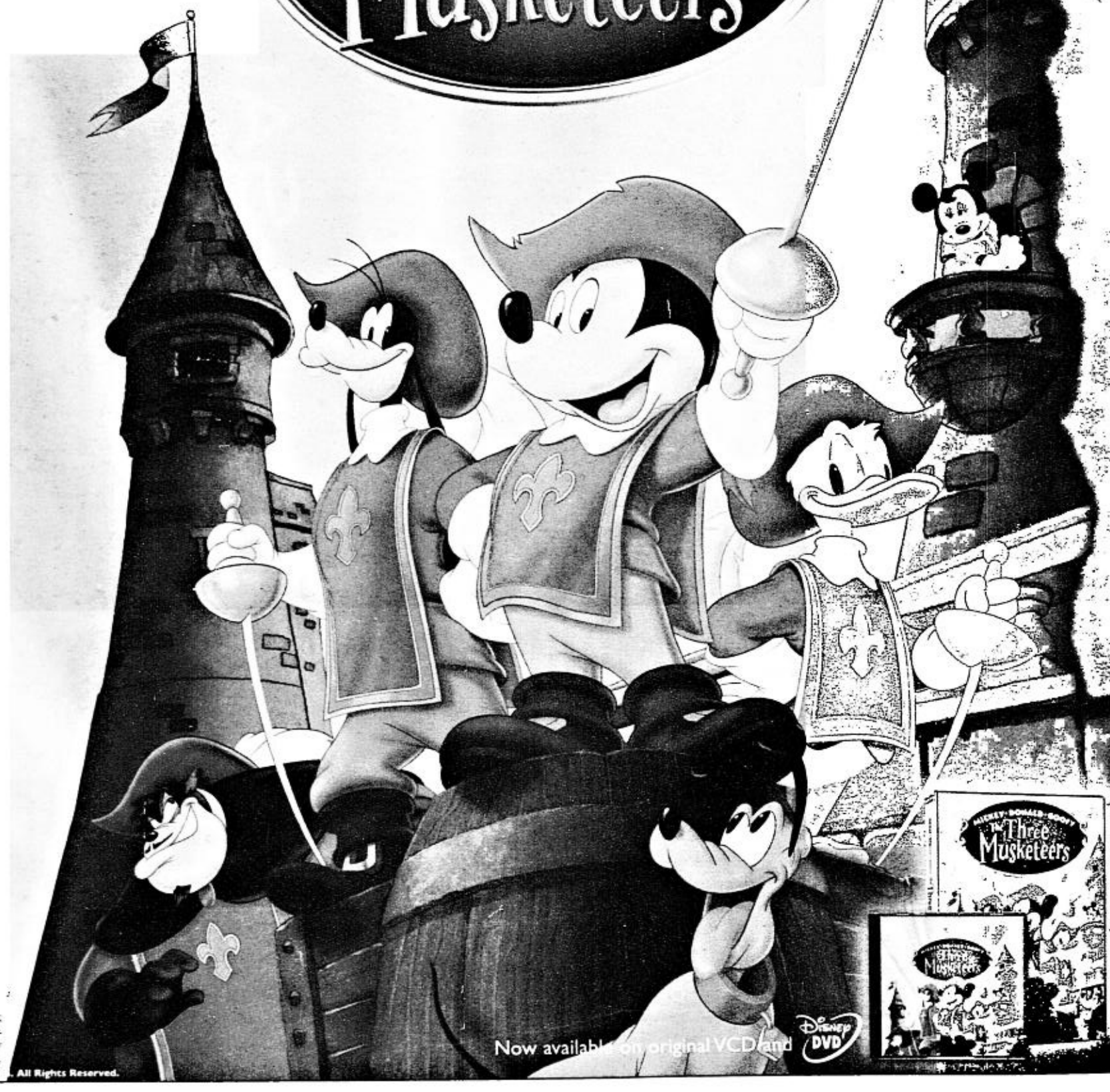

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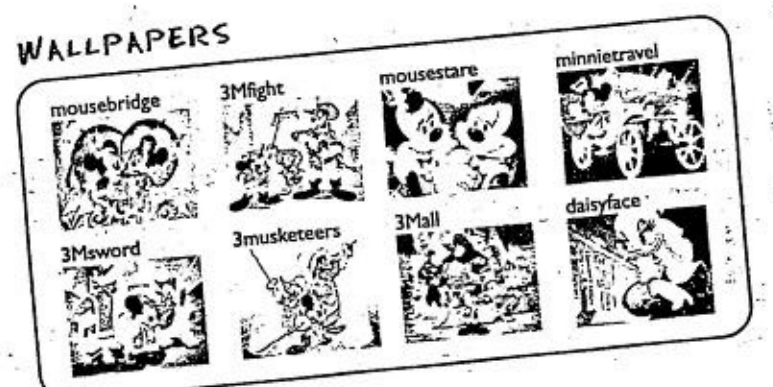

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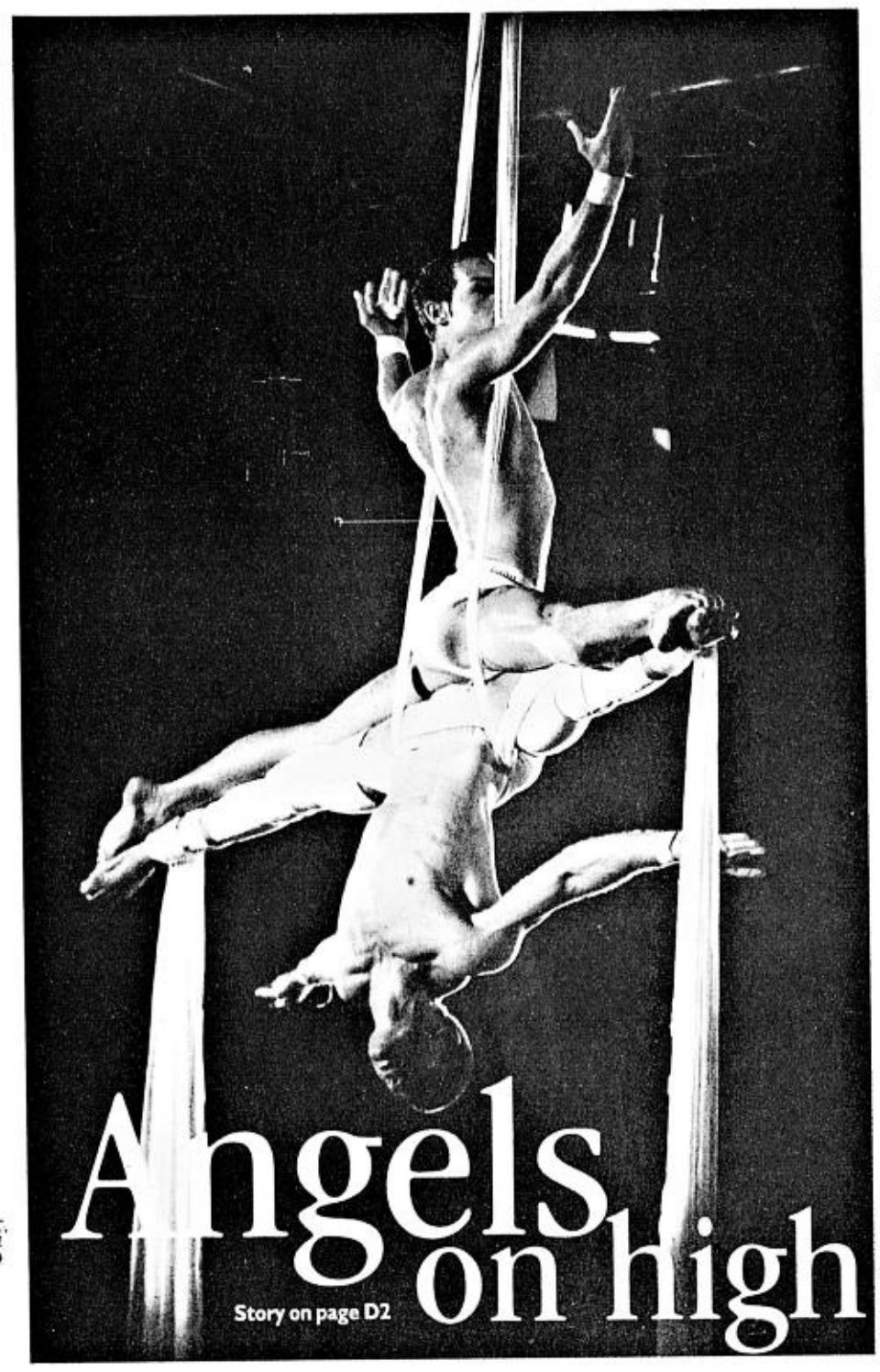

Angels on high

Story on page D2

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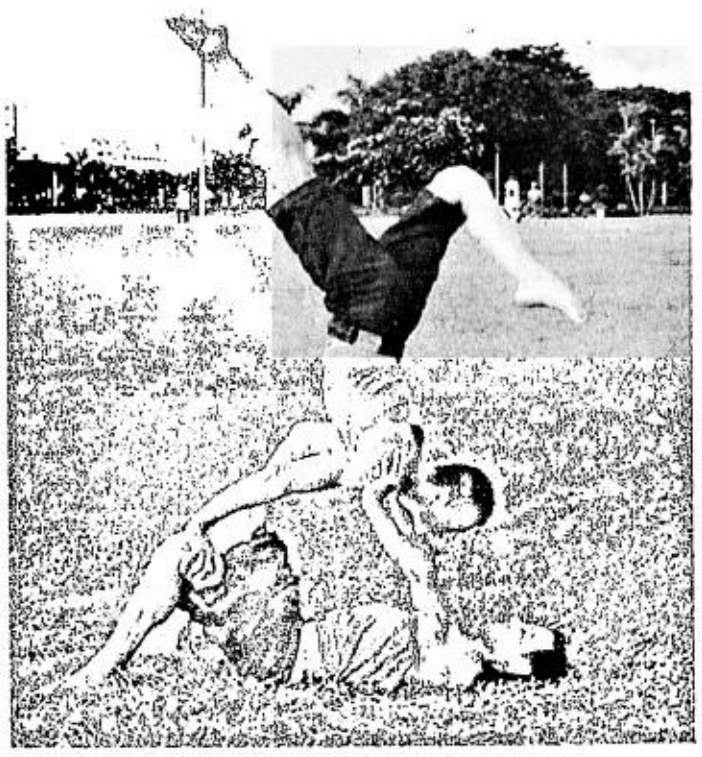


BEING of similar height, weight and body type makes them the perfect team for aerial performances. On Stéphane: Bench orange tank top, Overhauled denim shorts, Bench Body black classic brief with gray band. On Emiliano: Bench green tank top, Overhauled denim shorts, Bench Body white classic brief PHOTO: BEIA FORMOSO

THE MANY stances of the Les Farfadais duo. On Stéphane: Bench black tank top, Overhauled denim shorts, Bench Body black classic brief with gray band. On Emiliano: Bench black sleeveless undershirt, Overhauled denim shorts, Bench Body white classic brief

Angels on high

Text by Beia Formoso
Contributor
Photos by Ernie Sarmiento

THEY stepped out onto the dark stage under a lone spotlight: two tall, lean, unabashedly good-looking men naked save for skimpy Bench briefs. Then they began to twist and bend their bodies in inhuman ways, leaning and holding onto each other, creating beautiful, provocative yet graceful poses that elicited oohs and aahs from the spectators.

But the audience could never have anticipated what was to come when they appeared for their second act. Without net or harness, they performed high up in the air. The act of climbing two long trains of white cloth hanging from the ceiling by wrapping it around their bodies was in itself a dance. Then the cloth would unravel and they would go along with it, spinning in midair, each fall different from the other. Many times it seemed like they were really going to fall but they were always caught by the cloth.

But the move that got the most shrieks and applause was when one of them was hanging upside down, the other right side up, and with both doing splits, their legs started to get closer and closer to each other until they were touching, split-to-split, crotch-to-crotch. Sensual and spectacular, it was absolutely breathtaking.

Sexy acrobats

After the Bench "Understatement" show at the Araneta, one thing was on everyone's mind: Who were those sexy acrobats?

Meet Stéphane Haffner and Emiliano Simeoni, the dynamic duo called "Angels" and resident heartthrobs of the French dance theater company Les Farfadais based in Paris, France.

Stéphane (pronounced Estefan) is of French, Swiss and Italian descent while Emiliano is pure Italian. Both stand above 6 ft tall and possess bodies like those of gods. Stéphane comes across as the cute boy-next-door type while Emiliano is the embodiment of the phrase "tall, dark and handsome."

They are no strangers when it comes to underwear shows as they have modeled for European underwear brands, with Stéphane even modeling in the buff for Hermès. Both are fast becoming in-demand international models, having graced the spreads of countless magazines, catalogues and, in the case of Emiliano, even a few TV commercials.

But before anything else, they are acrobats. Their company, Les Farfadais (www.lesfarfadais.com), was created by Stéphane and his brother Alexandre in 1999. Though it is a relatively new company in the field of dance and acrobatics, it has already performed all over Europe and in the United States, Japan, China, Taiwan, Thailand and now the Philippines.

Having trained and competed in gymnastics since he was 6 years old, Stéphane, 26, found his calling for acrobatics when he joined theater at the age of 16. He then went to "circus" school and even attended fashion design school before starting Les Farfadais with his brother, who is also a designer. Together, they come up with concepts, stories, set decoration, costumes and visual effects for their shows.

Emiliano, 31, started doing classical ballet when he was only eight. He was a regular on Italian television as a ballet and pop dancer until he met Stéphane five years ago. He saw Stéphane doing an aerial performance on a TV show and wanted to try it.

"For a dancer it's the best to be in the air, [to] dance in the air," he says. Emiliano spent one year training under Stéphane and now stands as his assistant in choreography.

There are 11 artists and three technical guys in their company. Not only do they dance and perform acrobatics, they also compose their own music. Every element of their shows is original and they make everything themselves.

According to Stéphane, what's great about acrobatics is that you don't have to keep doing the same routine over and over. There is room to experiment. That is simply how they came up with the idea of the "split-to-split" position, which almost wasn't performed on account of Emiliano getting injured the day before the Araneta show. While rehearsing their aerial act, he fell, hurt his leg and was rushed to the hospital. Asked how he was able to go on with the show, he replied with a smile, "I prayed."

He wasn't injured too badly, due to his healthy frame. The pair's perfect bodies are the result of daily workouts and rehearsals, which consist of one hour of stretching and three-to-four hours of dance and aerial training.

BEFORE Stéphane shaved his head, he and Emiliano were always mistaken for brothers. On Stéphane: Bench black tank top. On Emiliano: Bench black sleeveless undershirt

STEPHANE and Emiliano, shown here amused by a lobster, can't get enough of our fresh seafood. PHOTO: BEIA FORMOSO

Average guys

But underneath it all, they're your average guys who chill out to Café del Mar and pop music, and like to watch "Spiderman" and do the wrist actions. Though they had some trouble communicating in English, their personalities shone through their laughter, constant smiles, curiosity about the culture, cravings for fresh seafood and stabs at learning Tagalog, the last being easy for them as they can speak numerous languages.

Aside from dance and acrobatics, they love to skateboard, snowboard, surf, swim and scuba dive. Their eyes lit up at the mention of the word "beach" and they jumped at the chance to extend their stay in the country so that they could catch some sun and sand.

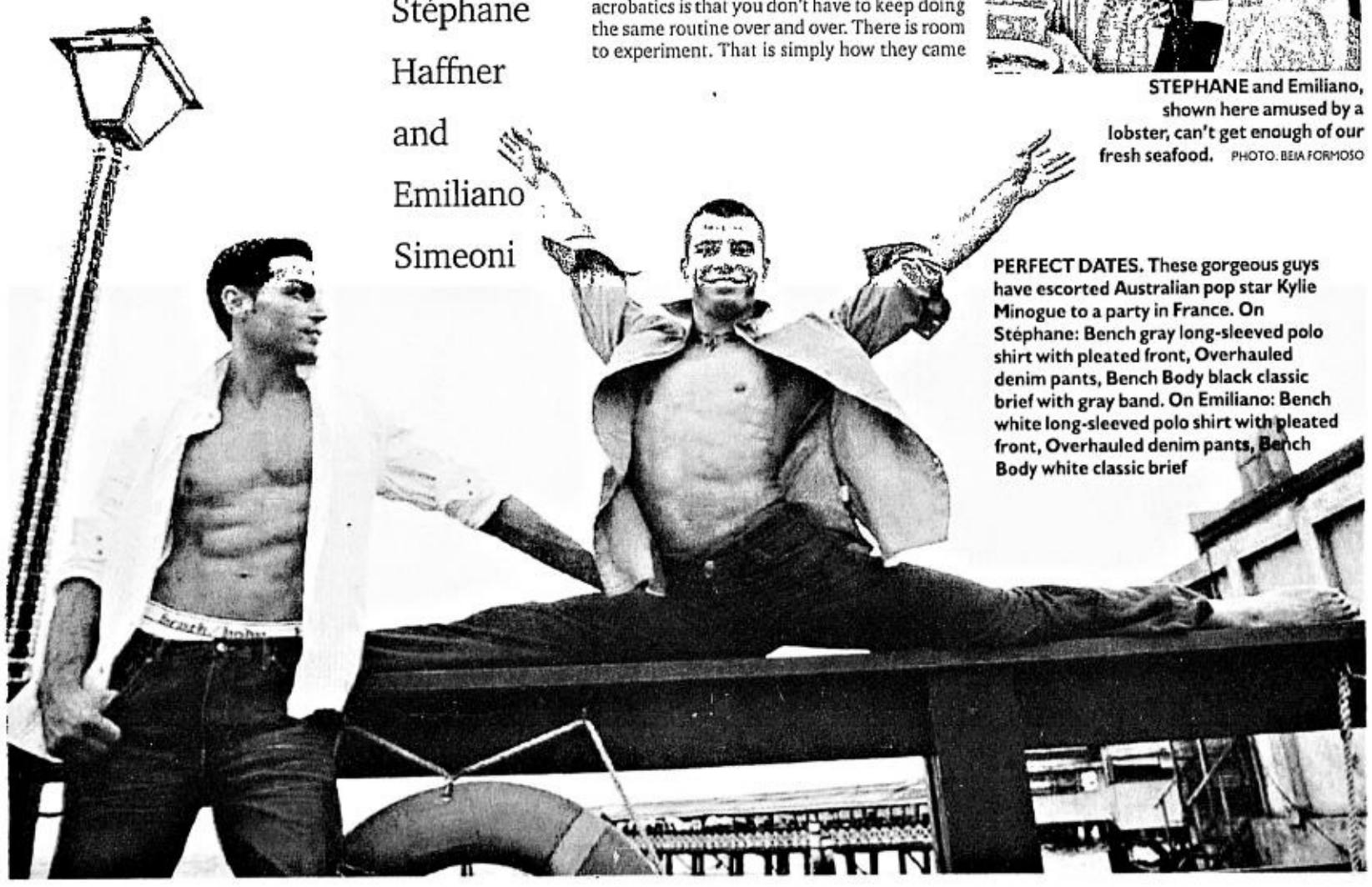
After all, their next project lined up is Les Farfadais' independent show, set to start in November yet and to tour parts of Europe and, hopefully, the rest of the world.

Stéphane was quick to make it clear that they are not like Cirque du Soleil at all, which has clowns, jugglers, trapeze and other acts going on simultaneously. In fact, they are more like theater that tells a story and conveys emotions through dance both on the ground and in the air.

He adds, "When they see us for the first time, people say 'Cirque du Soleil! Cirque du Soleil!' because they are so big and famous. But maybe one day we'll be famous, too!"

They already are, in this corner of the world. And that's a good enough reason for this gorgeous duo to come back.

The recent Bench show uncovered an amazing duo act by Stéphane Haffner and Emiliano Simeoni



PERFECT DATES. These gorgeous guys have escorted Australian pop star Kylie Minogue to a party in France. On Stéphane: Bench gray long-sleeved polo shirt with pleated front, Overhauled denim pants, Bench Body black classic brief with gray band. On Emiliano: Bench white long-sleeved polo shirt with pleated front, Overhauled denim pants, Bench Body white classic brief

BENCH BODIES. The duo performing their acrobatic act in skimpy undies

Hello and goodbye

DEAR Ben,

(Who never expected to inherit old coins and now is sorry he did not keep the address of the gentleman who buys them)

See Arturo Quiban Jr. of Bank Notes Society of the Philippines at 1184-F A. Mabini St., Ermita. Call 5240548.

Living will

Dear Diana,

(Whose mother is now hospitalized and wants to write a living will she read some years ago). This appeared in this column in 1993:

My Living Will

Of sound mind at this writing, I hereby express my wishes in the event of serious physical disability befalling me.

Measures of artificial support in the face of impending death that I specifically refuse are:

1. Electrical or mechanical resuscitation of my heart when it has stopped beating;

2. Masogastric tube feeding when I am paralyzed or unable to take nourishment by mouth; and

3. Mechanical respiration when I am no longer able to sustain my own breathing.

Please call a Catholic priest to administer the Sacrament of Extreme Unction, but in the event that this does not become possible due to time constraint, do not let it bother you. You know I have always lived a life under Divine Guidance.

Do not grieve. Death is not putting out the light. It is extinguishing the lamp because the dawn has come.

Signature and date

Hija, do not wait for your mother to become seriously ill. Call a priest to hear her confession so she can receive the Holy Eucharist. She may even recover in due time.

Farewell

Dear readers,

This is the last Live and Let Live you will be reading because I have resigned for health reasons. Those of you who have written me about your emotional and family problems can get a better and faster answer. Please call Crisis Line (8937603 or 8937606) for free and confidential advice. Callers there talk about marital and relationship problems, depression, suicide tendencies, school or peer problems.

I have resigned because of recurring chest pain and dizziness. My condition brings to mind the saying, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," and, "God moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform."

Here is an example. Twenty-four

LIVE AND LE LIVE

Tita Dulce

years ago I was also diagnosed to have angina pectoris. I was then a freelance journalist and writing a weekly legal story. By serendipity, I had just interviewed three priests who were water diviners. One had also healing powers. After our interview, I suddenly asked, "Father, is there something else you can do?" He immediately said, "Come with me, but don't write about it."

In the next room there was a woman carrying a child who was crying. He told me, "Touch him." I did and realized the little boy had a very high fever. Then the priest placed his hands on the child's head and prayed over him. The child stopped crying, and I was again told to touch him. When I did, the child was cool, no longer feverish.

And so, a week later I went back to this holy priest to obtain healing. As I was seated, he placed his hands on my head, and as he was praying, I felt warmth going down my face, neck and settling on my chest.

When I went back for a checkup by my doctor, there was no longer anything wrong with me. I cannot reveal the name of this priest because he is no longer here in Metro Manila, and I was told he is also no longer physically well.

By the time you read this, I may have gone to see the healer, Anthony Vivero, referred by Jaime Licauco. He does healing on Wednesdays and Saturdays. His address is 22 Essen St., NW BF Homes, Phase 3, Paranaque. Call 8206852.

Power of prayer

Several times in the past I mentioned that "more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." There are times, however, when God gives more that what you ask for. Here is an example:

This happened in June 1983. One morning, after my children left for office and school, I was alone in our apartment, preparing lunch because I was expecting some visitors. As I stuffed the chicken I was going to bake, I prayed, "Thank you for the way my children are, thank you for the way my life is now. There is nothing more I can ask for." (I have been a widow since 1971.)

All of a sudden I heard a male voice—"It is time for you to keep regular office hours again." In my mind, I answered—"Oh, at my age, I cannot find a job I will really like." The voice again said, "You'll see, you'll see." I was then 53 years old.

Looking back, I am really surprised why I did not get scared or shocked hearing a voice from nowhere. After I placed the chicken in the oven, the phone rang. It was Adlai Amor of the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation. He asked, "Ma'am, would you like a job with regular office hours?" Amazed, I asked, "Where?" He said, "At the American Embassy."

I thought he was joking, so I answered, "Does that mean I can shop in their commissary?" I was then shopping at Cash and Carry in Makati. He answered, "Oh yes, because it is the highest position for a Filipino. Can you go there today? The public affairs officer is waiting for you."

I asked why me, and he said it was because they knew I had many contacts. Well, I went there the next day, and that is how, for eight years, I was public affairs adviser, also in charge of the in-house printing press and records system.

Landing this column

Many of you, dear readers, have asked how I got hired by the Inquirer. Well, some things are meant to be. One Friday morning in January 1990, Nora Saba, then PRO of Nikko Manila Garden Hotel, called to invite me for lunch because she was going to introduce her new assistant.

I brought my leave form to my boss, Stanley Schrager, the public affairs officer. At the US Embassy, one could take a leave for even just 30 minutes. Mine was for 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. that day. He signed it, and then asked, "TR, who is your date this time?" I explained that every time I filed a leave, it was just to attend a media conference. So he tore up my leave form, and said, "From now on, I order you to attend every media conference."

And here is why I got to be Tita Dulce. During the lunch, I sat beside Lita Logarta, who had just been appointed lifestyle editor by the Inquirer. After I congratulated her, she asked what else should she add to her section. I said she could add an advice column; it would increase her readers.

She asked me to give her two samples. I thought she just wanted to see how it would look.

On the way back to the embassy, I saw before me in the clouds the words "Live and Let Live" and I decided it would be a good title for an advice column. And that is how this column got started.

And so, *au revoir,* my dears.

Quezonians celebrate four decades and one

THE QUEZONIANS 1923 Inc. celebrates its 81st anniversary with its annual dinner-dance charity ball on Sept. 4, 6:30 p.m., at the grand ballroom of Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

The event also honors Quezon province's illustrious past and its famous son, Philippine Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon.

The Quezonians 1923 Inc. is a socio-civic organization whose members, all hailing from Quezon, are involved in various professions and businesses. Over the years, the club has given scholarship grants to deserving poor students, conducted medical missions in remote barrios, trained unemployed people and funded livelihood projects, and conducted outreach fellowships for the youth sector.

The officers of The Quezonians 1923 Inc. are Emilio R. Pilar and Carrie A. Bautista (presidents). Pilar is the Philippine National Bank's group head for Southern Luzon. Bautista is the wife of Edgardo A. Bautista, president of Mirant Phils.

A special highlight of the evening is the formal handover of the newly completed Livelihood and Learning Center, a two-story building donated by Mirant Phils. Foundation on a 5,000-sq-m lot donated by Roger and Glady Cabuñag (a past president of the Quezonian 1923 Inc.) in Brgy. Concepcion, Sariaya.

Another highlight of the charity ball is the coronation of the 2004 muse, Mildred Anne "April" Javierto Pilar, 22, who has a Masters of Science in Management and a graduate of the University of Asia and the Pacific. She will be escorted by 22-year-old Jose Maria "Joey" Guanzon Tanyag, also a Master of Science in Management graduate of the University of Asia and the Pacific and vice president for purchasing of Guanzon Lime Development Co.

CARRIE A. Bautista

EMILIO R. Pilar

Participants in the traditional *rigodon de honor* are Emil Pilar and Carrie Bautista, Jun Lagman and Ching Sales, Ogie Villamar and Rosette Guerrero, Col. Charlemagne Alejandrino and Minnie Señeres, Dr. Pat Andaman and Undersecretary Agnes Devanadera, Secretary Robert Pagdanganan and wife Susan, Rey Calayan and Edeng Pilar, lawyer Jose Mari Treñas and Marivic Vasquez, Gen. Nestor Castillo and Jasmin Enverga, Tony Constantino and Flor Santiago, Rholand Roxas and Mardi Pedregosa, lawyer Nonoy Miravalles and Mitzi Piad, engineer Dennis Abcede and Dulce Abcede, Roger Cabuñag and Glady Cabuñag, Deo de Luna and Bing Vizcocho, Thelma Gana and Jimmy Laya, Gen. Virtus Gil and Lita Gil, lawyer Leandro Garcia and Tessie Briones, director Noriel Devanadera and Ana Torres, Jimmy Koa and Mimi Koa, Tony Palad and Myrna Borromeo, Cris Aquino and Lyn Motohashi, Gene Reyes and Lydia Reyes, Louie and Mely Ablaza, lawyer Al Vizcocho and Mayor Connie Doromal, Peping Conti and Lody Rivera, Boy Sales and Lala Lim, Mars Lambino and Nori Ongsiako, and Bernie Jamilla and Nilda Jamilla.

Call Myra Camiring at 5528054 or Gilbert Panaligan at (042) 3736006.

Vote and win

FABULOUS prizes await winners in the "Mom and Me Photo Contest," a feature of Robinson's Supermarket and Big R Supercenter's Children's Fair, ongoing until Sept. 24.

Until Sept. 24, customers who buy certain products can join the grand raffle to win a handycam by voting for their favorite mom-and-kid photograph. Vote stubs will serve as raffle tickets.

Deadline for voting is Sept. 24.

Prizes include Little Tykes playground sets, a digicam or handycam and Robinson's gift certificates.

The children's fair offers discounts on selected products from the Children's Section of the supermarket and supercenter.

Meanwhile, the "Training Station at East Wing," a series of free workshops, is held 3-5 p.m. every Saturday at the first level of the East Wing, Robinson's Galleria.

It includes Creative Wedding Planning, Aug. 28; Health and Stress Management, Sept. 4. Call 6874858, 6874301 or 6836137.

HENY SISON

CULINARY SCHOOL

THE ESSENTIAL BAKING & PASTRY SERIES. This 26 - day hands-on class will cover the basics of pastry, desserts, bread baking as well as cake decorating. It is suitable for those seeking an entry-level position in pastry shop, hotel or restaurants. Classes begin on September 3 and ends November 27, 2004. Classes are held every Fridays & Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit. For more information call 726-5316 or 412 7792 and ask Lirlo & Rita.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

September 1 (Wednesday) 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (classroom A)**BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison*** Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing. **P1,500**

September 1 (Wednesday)2:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES by: Heny Sison*** Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, Rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar & Prune Bar. **P1,500**

September 2-3 (Thursday - Friday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison*** Learn the basics of cake decorating. Icing, color, star, shell, dots, outline and scallop borders; the rose, figure piping: clowns & booties Each student will bake & decorate a character birthday cake. **Full participation. P4,000**

September 4 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **FRESH PASTA WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli,** Master Pizzaiolo & Barista, food consultant of various Italian restaurants all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan, Italy.**Demonstration with student participation. P2,500**

September 6 (Monday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) **SECRETS NO MORE I by: Heny Sison*** Decadent Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing & Caramel Sauce, Lemon Torte, Ensaymada, Almond Sanzrival, Strawberry Shortcake & Ube Cake. **P3,000**

September 6 (Monday)9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (classroom A) **EASY NO-BAKE DESSERTS by: Chef Jill Sandique,** Food Stylist & Consultant, Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School* Frozen Coffee Cream Roll, Chocolate Bavanan Mousse, Floating Island, Mango Ice Box Cake, Buko-Pandan and Butterscotch Banana Cream Pie. **P1,500**

September 6 (Monday)1:30 – 5:30 p.m. (classroom B) **KOREAN COOKING I by: Chef Cecile Park,** owner of Silla Korean Restaurant & food consultant to various Korean restaurants in Metro Manila* Beef Bulgogi (Tenderloin & ordinary), Chicken Bulgogi, Pork Bulgogi, Chap Chae, Mi Yuk Guk (Soups: Seasweed, Beef or Tahong), Bibimbap & Kalbi Jim. **P1,700**

September 7 (Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.(classroom A)**SIMPLE PLEASURES by: Chef Jill Sandique*** Crème Brûlee, Mexican White Flan, Strawberry Tunnel Cake,Blueberry Peach Torte, Pineapple Crumb Cake and Gateau Sans Rival.**P1,500**

September 7 (Tuesday)2:00 – 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) **CHRISTMAS BARS & COOKIES by: Heny Sison*** Food for the Gods, Carmela's Bar, Oatmeal Lace Cookies, Macaroon Cups, Revel Bar and Macadamia Cookies. **P1,500**

September 7 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **PARTY FOODS AND DRINKS by: Chef Jane Paredes,** Food Consultant, co-owner of Simply Desserts trained at the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park , New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School **Party Foods:** Baby Riblets, Cheese & Spinach in Phyllo, Baked Mussels, Crab Cakes w/ Cocktail Sauce, Gambas w/ Crabfat, Chicken Salad in Rice Paper Roll, Cheese & Walnut Canapes. **Drinks:** Singapore Sling, Planter's Punch, Tung Island Iced Tea, Blushing Piña Colada, Blue Hawaiian, Frozen Iced Teas, Fruit Iced Tea **P2,500**

September 8 (Wednesday)9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) ***New Class*** **BAKE SALE FOR CHRISTMAS by: Heny Sison*** Banana Nut Cake with Pecan Bourbon Sauce, Moist Carrot Cake, Pecan Turtle Bar, Pecan Pie, New York Cheesecake and Super Thin Oatmeal Raisin Cookies. **P1,500**

September 9 (Thursday)9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)**BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca,** floral designer* Learn the theories, styles, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care & maintenance, basic form, arrangements and flower for wedding **P2,500**

September 10 (Friday)9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) ***New Class*** **CHOCOLATE DESSERTS II by: Heny Sison*** Molten Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Macaroons, Mocha Tiramisu, Chocolate Panna Cotta, Chocolate Cheesecake and Double Chocolate Chunk Cookies.**P1,700**

September 11 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A)**DOUGHNUT WORKSHOP by:** Chef Jane Paredes **P 2,500**

September 13 (Monday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **BROWNIE WORKSHOPby: Chef Jill Sandique*** Fudgy Brownies, Chocolate Chip Butter Blondies, Chocolate Chip Walnut Bars, Cappuccino Brownies, Butterscotch Brownies, Marbled Cream Cheese Brownies, Fruit & Nut Bars and White Chocolate Brownies. **P2,500**

September 13 (Monday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom B)**COFFEE & TEA CLASSby: Chef Jane Paredes*** Fundamentals of coffee & tea preparation. From basic brew to specialty beverages. How to accompany coffee & tea with pastries, sandwiches & other savory bites will be covered. Full participation. **P2,500**

September 14 (Tuesday)9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)**FLATBREADS, DIPS & SPREADS WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison.** Flatbreads: Tender Focaccia, Carta di Musica (Sardinian parchment bread), Lavosh, Pita Bread, Thin Cornmeal TortillaDips & Spreads: Chicken Liver Pâte, Smoked Salmon, Tapenade, Pesto, Zahtar & Hot Artichoke Dip **P2,500**

September 14 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **BAKED PASTA by: Chef Jill Sandique *** Classic Lasagne, Manicotti, Chicken Mushroom and Ham Casserole, Baked Macaroni, Penne with Seafood and Asparagus. **P1,700**

September 15 (Wednesday)9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) ***New Class*** **BAKING WITH APPLES By: Heny Sison*** Tarte Tatin, American Apple Pie, Apple Streudel, Apple Crumble, Apple Cake & Apple Nut Tart. **P1,500**

September 16 (Thursday) 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **SUSHI CLASS By: Chef Koichi Kondo,** licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and Food consultant to various Japanese restaurants* Temaki-Zushi (Do-It Yourself Sushi Rolls), Bara-Zushi (Scattered Sushi), Inari-Zushi (Sushi Pockets), Futo-Maki Zushi (Thick-Rolled Sushi), Teka-Maki (Hand-rolled Tuna Sushi), Kappa-Maki (Sea Cucumber Sushi) **P1,700**

September 17 (Friday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)**POULTRY COOKERY by: Chef Jane Paredes*** We'll teach you how to grill, broil, roast, sauté, bake, braise & stew poultry products from chicken, duck, turkey & quail. Carving techniques included. Recipes: Sauteed Chicken Fillet with Fines Herbes Sauce, Roast Duck Orientale, Baked Stuffed Chicken, Turkey with Sidings, Chicken & Mushroom Kebabs and Braised Quail with onions. Full participation.**P2,500**

September 18 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m (classroom A) ***New Class*** **TRADITIONAL RECIPES FROM THE REGIONS OF ITALY PART II by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli*** Insalata Di Mare w/Lemon (Seafood Salad), Rigatoni In Piedi Al Forno (Baked Rigatoni), Pesce Spada Ghiotta Madonna (Swordfish Sicily Style), Involtini Con Le Penne (Pasta w/ Rolled Beef), Calamari Ripieni (Stuffed Squid), Zuppa Di Patate (Potato Soup with Saffron), Angello Con Funghi (Lamb w/ Mushroom), Castagnaccio (Chestnut Cake) and more.**P2,500**

September 20(Monday)1:30 - 5:30 p.m.(classroom A) ***New Class*** **BASIC RESTAURANT SERVICE SKILLSby: Cecile Mauricio,** former editor of Mabuhay Philippines (Philippine Airlines' in-flight magazine), is a communications and marketing consultant for various restaurants.* Restaurant staff who can communicate well is the key to improved sales and service. A concise workshop for new waiters and waitresses, new restaurant owners, or a refresher course for regular staff. Course outline: Communication Skills, Personality Development, Customer Service, Sales & Marketing Concepts and Service Strategies. **P1,000**

September 20 (Monday)10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.(classroom B) ***New Class*** **PIADINA, ROMAGNOLA, BRUSCHETTE, ETC. By: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli** PIADINA: Salmon, Ham & Mushroom, Tuna & VegetarianBRUSCHETTE: Italian toasted bread with several toppingsGNOCCO FRITTO (Fried Dough)FRESH GNOCCHI (Potato Dumplings) Gorgonzola, Tomato & morePANZAROTTI (Fried folded pizza w/ several flavor). **P2,500**

September 21 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)**DIMSUM III by: Chef Katherine Sion,** restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kai restaurant), caterer & an expert in Chinese cuisine.* Steamed Glutinous Rice with Chicken, Fried Beancurd Roll with Sweet & Spicy Sauce, Fried Meat Dumpling, Fried Dumpling with Scallop, Curry Dumplings with Chicken and Beef Ball. **P1,500**

September 21 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.(classroom B **KOREAN COOKING IIby: Chef Cecil Park*** Kim Chi (Baguio Pechay), Kim Chi Fried Rice (Fried Kimchi w/ Rice), Chap Chae Dop Bap (Korean Sotanghon w/ Rice), Hae Mul Guk Soo (Seafood w/ Noodle), Kakiugi Kimchi (Radish Kimchi), Bulgogi - Dop Bap (Bulgogi & Rice), Chicken - Dop Bap (Chicken & Rice). **P1,700**

September 22 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **SIOPAO & MAMI WORKSHOP by: Chef Katherine Sion. P2,500**

September 23 (Thursday)10:00 a.m. - 4:0 p.m.(classroom A)**POPULAR CHINESE DISHES CATERING II by: Chef Katherine Sion*** Beancurd with Eight Treasure Soup, Fried Chicken with Oyster Sauce, Fried Assorted Meats in a Bag, Grilled Beef Fillet with Special Sauce, Steamed Fish Fillet in Soy Sauce, Yang Chow Fried Rice and Mango with Sago. **P1,700**

September 24 (Friday)1:00 - 5:00 p.m (classroom A)**JAPANESE COOKING I (All Time Favorite Japanese Recipes)by: Chef Koichi Kondo,** licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants.* Miso Soup, Tempura, Nimono, Yakimono, California Maki, Chilled Soba, Noodles with Nori, Skewered Dumplings with Brown Sauce. **P1,700**

September 25 (Saturday)1:00 - 5:00 p.m.(classroom A)**KOREAN COOKING III by: Chef Cecil Park*** Bulgogi Jungol, Kalbi Chim (Beef), Pork Calbi Chim (Pork), Chicken Calbi Chim (Chicken), Chap Chae, Bibimbap, Hamul Pa Jeon (Korean Seafood & Vegetable) and Kim Bap (Korean Sushi) **P1,700**

September 27 (Monday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) ***New Class*** **TALKING BREADS: A WORKSHOP P2,500by: Chef Jill Sandique** * Chuk Sik Bao (Chinese Buns), Pineapple Skin Bread, Mexican Bread, Green Tea Twist, Red Bun Twist, Peanut Twist, Jam Rolls, Pineapple Braid, Coconut Bun, Custard & Chocolate Chips, Fruit & Custard, Meat Floss & Ham Sandwich, Mixed Vegetable Braid, Bacon Bun, Meat Floss & Puff Pastry Sandwich, Danish Pastry, Spring Onion Roll, Sweet Corn & Ham, Pizza Bread, Ham & Egg and Spinach and White Sauce

September 27 (Monday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom B)**PIZZA CLASS WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli** Demonstration with student participation **P2,500**

September 28 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **PATTIES & TURNOVERS by: Chef Jill Sandique *** Jamaican Beef Patties, Cuban Empanada, Chicken Mushroom Turnover, Indian Samosas, Stromboli and Empanadang Kalinskis.**P2,500**

September 28 (Tuesday)1:00 - 5:30 p.m.(classroom B)**JAPANESE COOKING II by: Chef Koichi Kondo*** Clam Soup, Miso Soup with Pork and Vegetables, Soup with Rice Cakes, Beef Salad, As-You-Like-It Pancake, Rolled Omelette, Candied Sweet Potatoes & Shrimp Fry. **P1,700**

September 29 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A)**SAUSAGE II: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Jane Paredes*** Breakfast Meatloaf, Chicken Honey Sausage, Breakfast Sausage, Chicken Teriyaki (Marinade), Garlic Sausage, Frankfurters, Burong Mangga (Pickled item), Corned Beef, Vienna Sausage. **P2,500**

September 30 (Thursday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **GIFTS FROM THE PANTRY by: Chef Jane Paredes*** Caramel Popcorn, Orange Marmalade, Burong Mangga, Mango Jubilee, Bacalao in Olive Oil, Marinated Laguna Cheese, Dulong in Olive Oil with Melba Toast, Peanut Butter and Banana Ketchup **P1,800**

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DIETHER Ocampo didn't go all the way.

Prime beef on parade

Bench's latest underwear and denim fashion show was decidedly high on testosterone and low on estrogen

STORY ON PAGE E2

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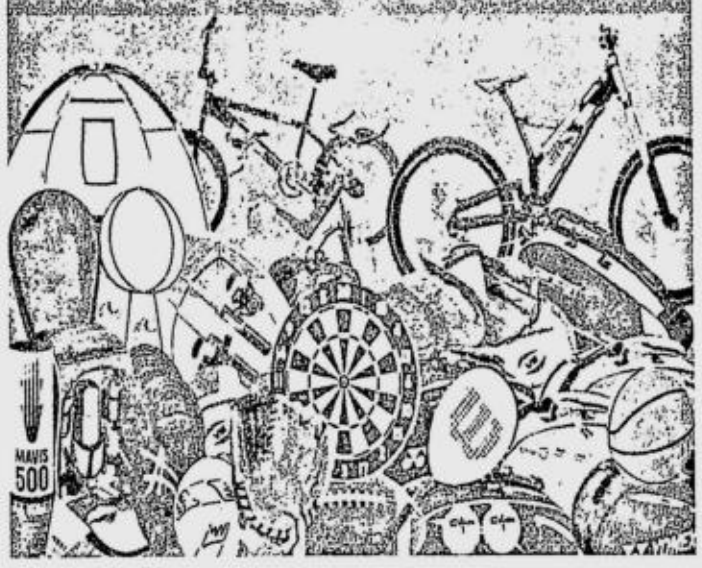

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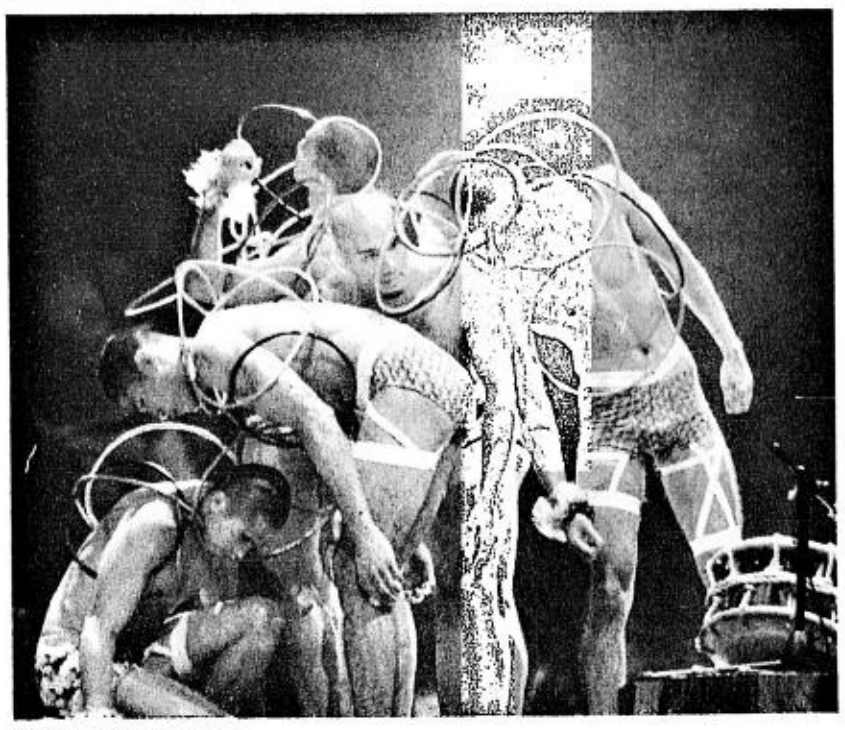
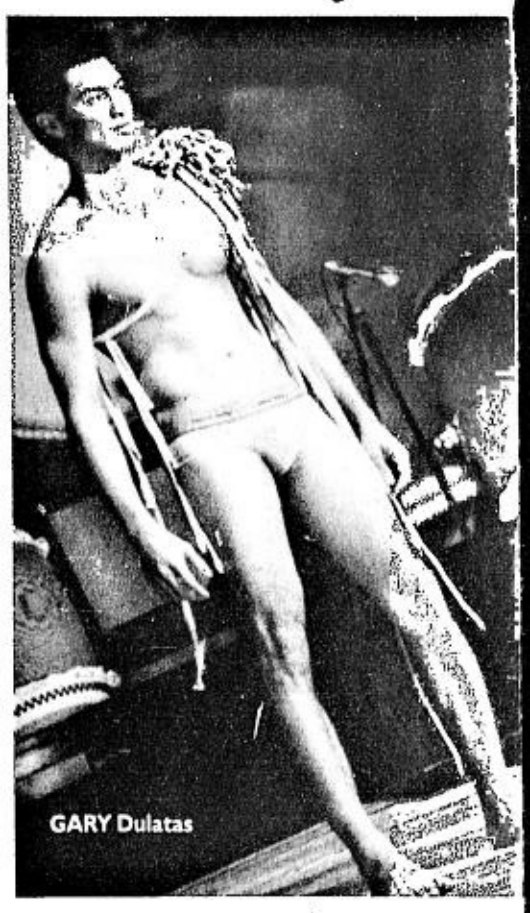


RING around the collar

ANTONIO Aquitania

WENDELL Ramos



GARY Dulatas

Prime beef on parade

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina and Karl Sumbeling

BENCH'S latest underwear and denim fashion show, "Understatement," is perhaps the runway equivalent of a star-studded and glossy porn flick, and we don't mean that derisively.

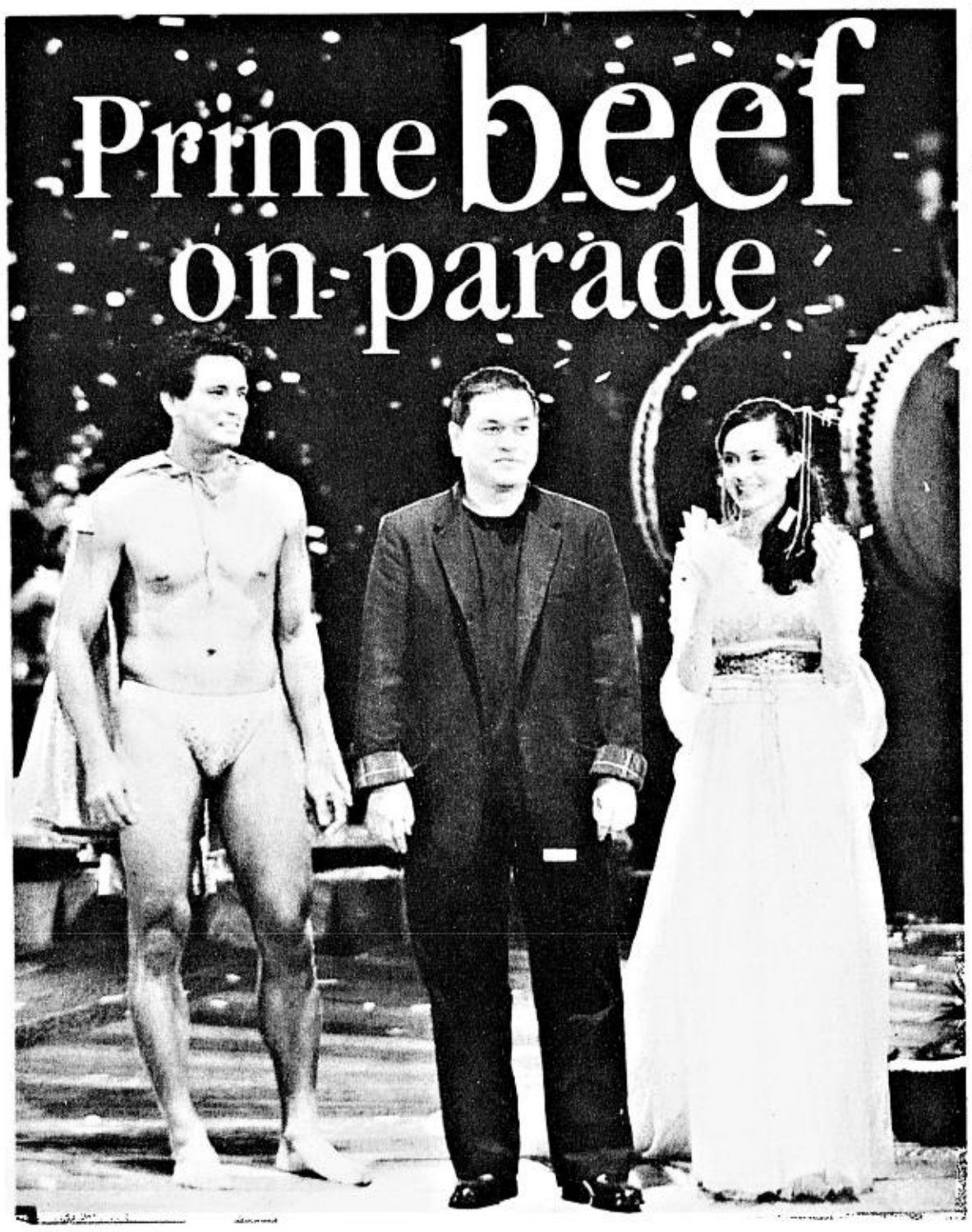
If we are to gauge the show's success solely on the huge number of voyeurs, er, people who trooped to the Araneta Coliseum last Wednesday, then Ben Chan and his collaborators have again produced a certified blockbuster.

Comparisons are in order between "Understatement" and "One Night Only," Bench's previous attempt to lure people to the Big Dome, and we can say that this more recent feat is a far better production.

Although the pacing was a bit slower this time, the production team led by director Ariel Lozada came up with a leaner, less episodic show. By doing away with "a cast of thousands," fans were able to feast their eyes longer on particular objects of their fantasies.

The inclusion of *taiku* drummers further quickened the public's pulse, their excitement climaxing at the sight of a healthy, jock-strapped Wendell Ramos. The drumbeat also added to the surreal feel of the show's "circus" portion, a fitting finale and arguably the night's most colorful and imaginatively styled segment.

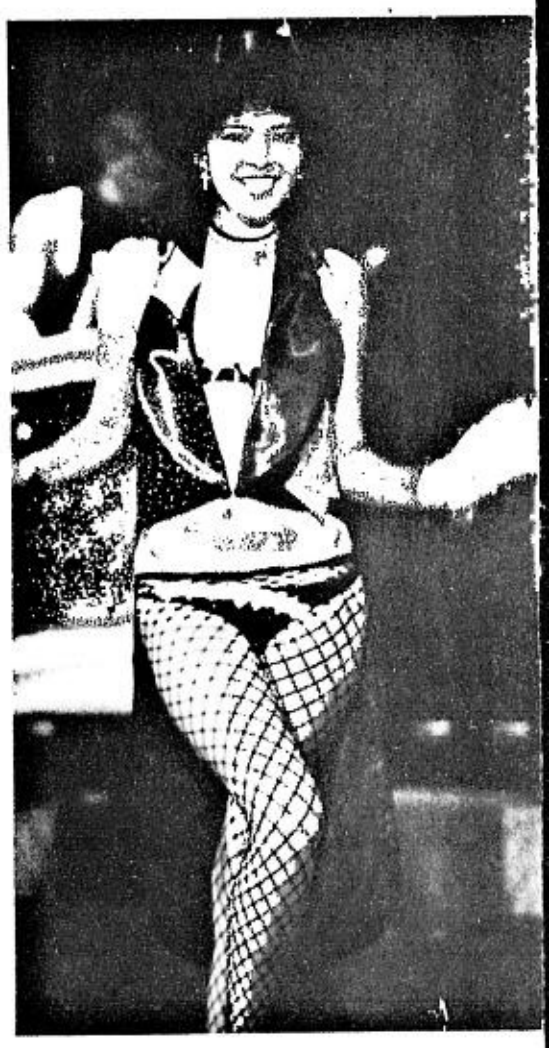
In fact, the show's circus theme was underscored much earlier, when two incredibly buffed French acrobats—no one, male or fe-



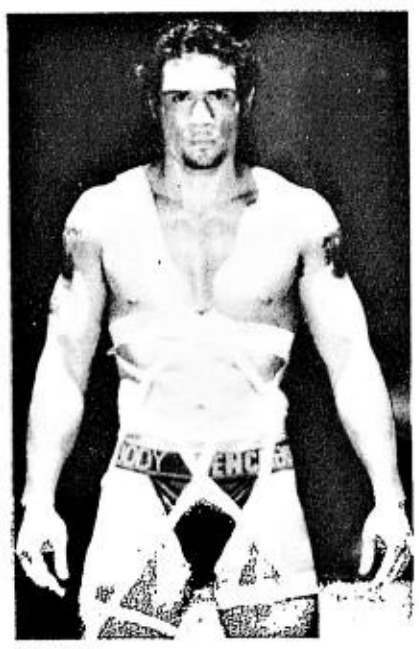
BEN Chan, the man behind it all, with good friends Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres

RICA Peralejo

JULIANA Palermo



ALESSANDRA de Rossi



JON Hall

ROB Duat

BRENT Javier

FRANCINE Prieto

RICHARD Gutierrez

male, went near them perhaps out of fear of unflattering comparisons—opened the show in black and red briefs. They later defied gravity in nothing but white undies.

Whimsical prints

Olympic-like rings, beaded balls, huge colored wigs and multi-layered, floral-appliquéd tulle bustles also highlighted the bright, whimsical prints of Bench's newest line of underwear, which debuted in this show. Take a bow, Michael Salientes.

In the absence, however, of real clothes (the equivalent of a story in films) to show, people behind the production relied heavily on styling and gimmicks. And despite their best efforts to trim down the cast, the show sometimes degenerated into a series of repetitive, ho-hum, mind-numbing exercises.

Like, how many times can you show a man's naked butt on stage before its shock value wears off?

Perhaps not wishing to do a repeat of the bosom-baring for the female models and Oblation-run nudity of the males in the 2002 show, organizers resorted to such drastic measures as the waistband-tugging, crotch-grabbing bit. Not only were these unnecessary in a spectacle as visually delicious as this year's show, they also bordered on hard sell.

While such stars as Ramos, Richard Gomez and Francine Prieto were overexposed—in Ramos' case both literally and figuratively—certain talents, such as Richard Gutierrez, Jay-R, Geneva Cruz, Diether Ocampo (we want to see *more* from this guy next time) and Kristine Hermosa, only had walk-ons. In fact, we felt some stars (and models) didn't have any business being there at all.

Despite her regal presence, tall and lovely Lucy Torres, for instance, seemed out of place in a long gown by Patrice Ramos-Diaz. Why not a deconstructed overhauled denim gown instead? If contrast was the point of the exercise, it was all but lost on the audience.

Time to move on

Organizers should have also limited Gomez's exposure to the finale. Sadly, the show-biz icon and granddaddy of Bench models no longer elicited the same response he did in previous shows. This time, the public's reception was tepid at best. Except for his initial appearance, the actor hardly made an impact as he repeatedly breezed through the stage with countless others.

To be fair, Gomez still looks devastatingly handsome and fit for his age. But in an industry where one's looks are sometimes, well, the sole benchmark, any man in his late 30s is bound to suffer next to the likes of Gary Dulatas, Jon Hall, Brent Javier and Marc Nelson. No amount of shimmering capes and beaded briefs can obscure this cruel fact.

In contrast, despite having a less-than-toned body, the flawlessly smooth Ramos had fans shrieking every time he made an appearance. The same reaction, however, didn't apply to the bulky Jomari Yllana, another Bench model who should be allowed to pasture.

The event was decidedly high on testosterone—what with the presence of virtually all of Douglas Quijano's boys and some of the country's top male models—but low on estrogen. Surprisingly, the picture-perfect Prieto failed to sizzle, as she jiggled all over the place. And that's no understatement.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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Diabetes Myths Debunked
Part 2

Myth 4. If both my parents have diabetes, then I was born to have diabetes

False! Although diabetes is considered to be hereditary and therefore has very strong familial tendencies, its genetics is only half the story. If children born to people with diabetes are taught and trained how to eat right and how to live a healthy lifestyle even at an early age, it is very likely that the children WILL NOT have diabetes. This is one of the reasons why diabetes education is very important.

Myth 5. Honey is good for patients with diabetes

False! While there seems to be a growing interest in the therapeutic properties of honey for a myriad of diseases, honey contains sugar. In fact, some experts say that honey is sugar. Hence, the current body of scientific evidence has not yet proven honey's role in the management of diabetes.

Myth 6. Smoking has no effect on blood sugar

False! Smoking has been identified to dramatically accelerate the onset of complications among people with diabetes.

Fight Diabetes!

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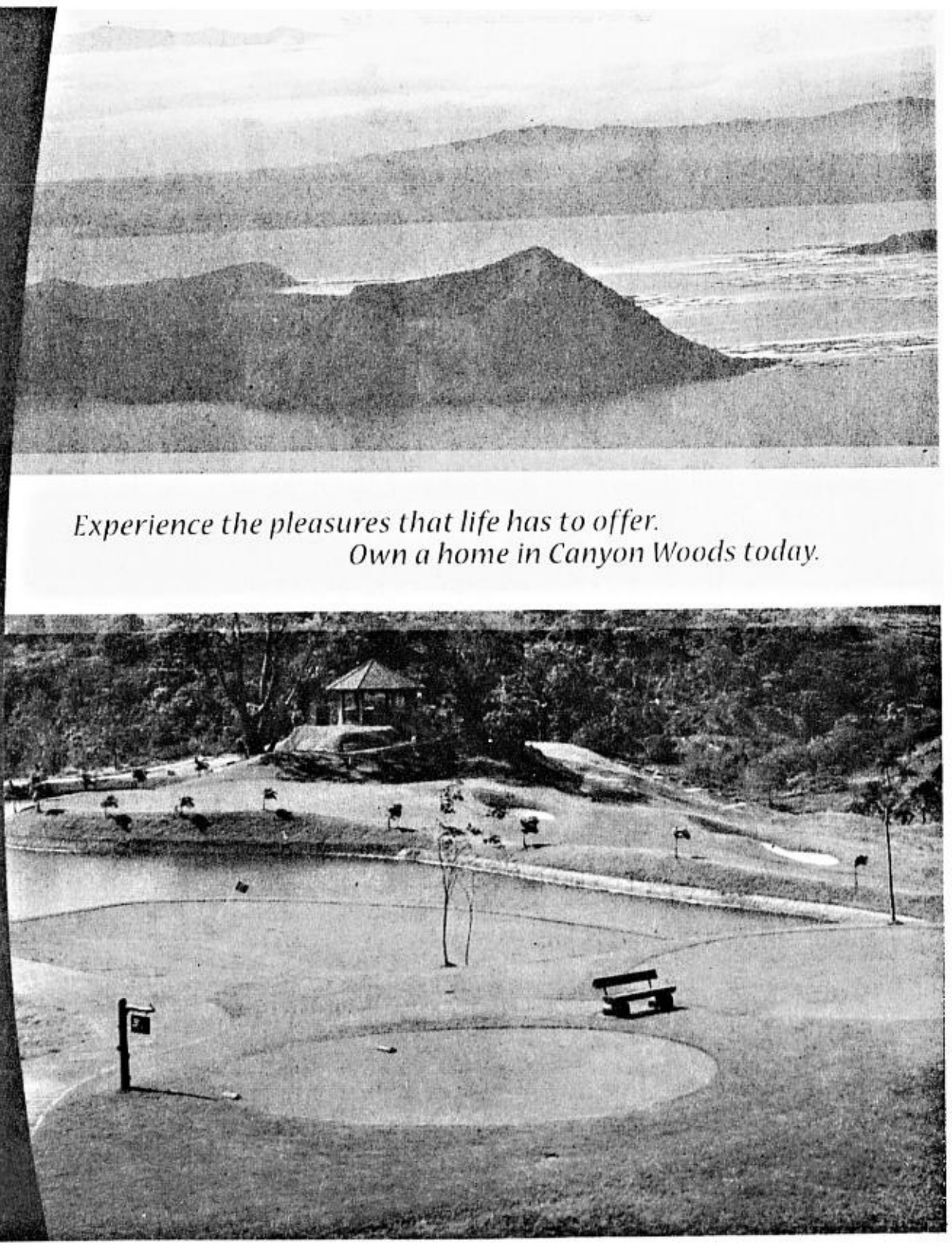

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My trying-hard triathlete self

My husband went to the Bench show to check out Francine Prieto whom he called an in-law. Her height and chest belied any relationship with me

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

WITH two triathlons last year under my belt, I am proud to place myself among the growing number of triathletes who rigorously train daily in at least one of the three disciplines (swim, bike and run). On some days I do badminton as substitute for cardio activity. But whatever the sport, all this amateur training has been part of my daily routine and is way high in my priority list. Of course, ranked lower than my social events.

MY TRYING/ F2

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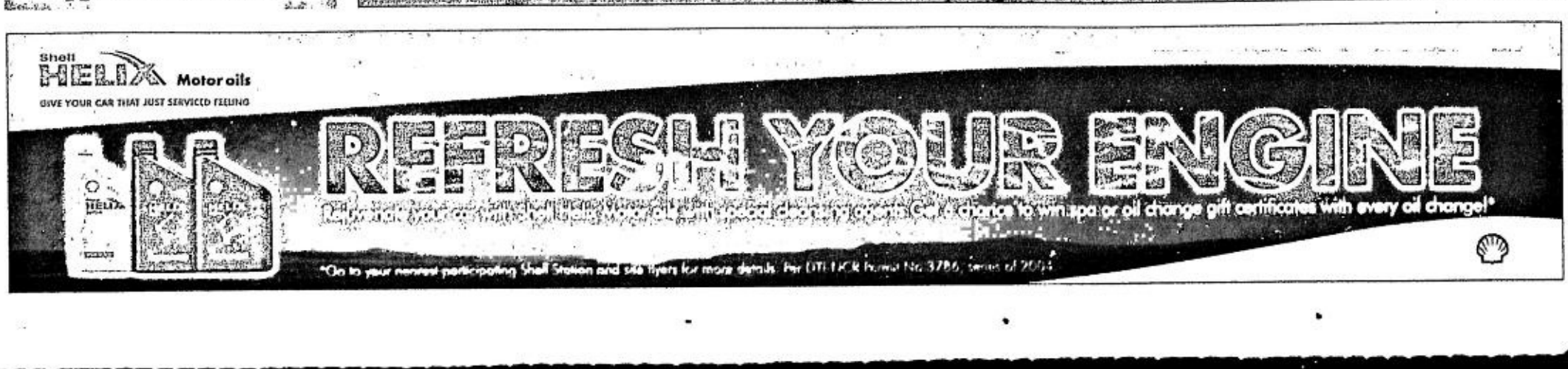

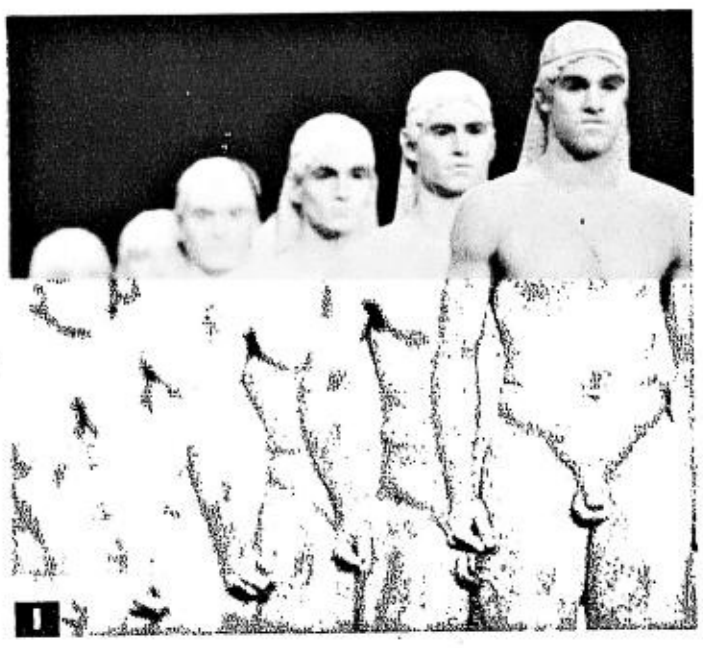
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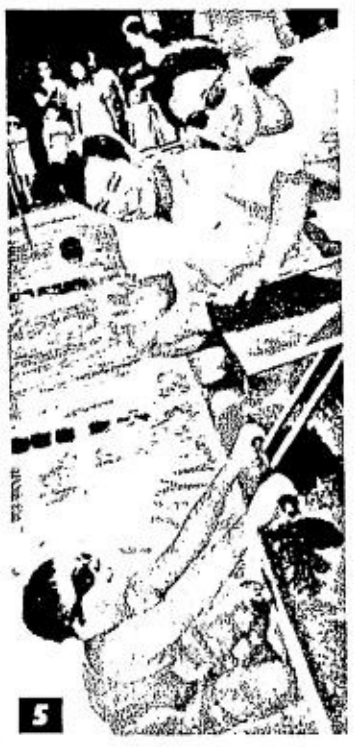
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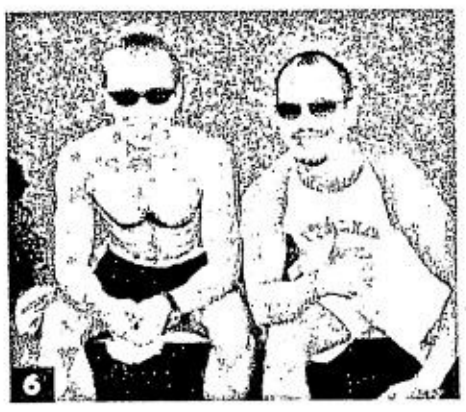
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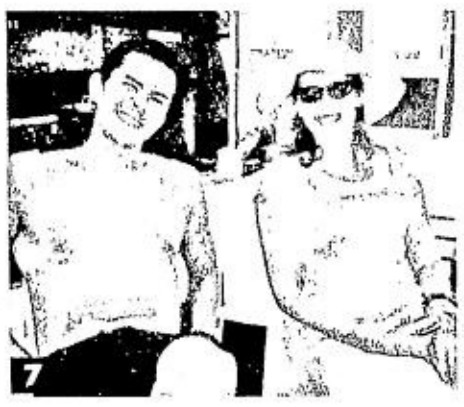
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8

SHOPPING for our Adidas at
my right

1. **STONE**-like Adonises at the Olympic Opening ceremonies, just like at the Bench show; 2. Total Immersion Class participants with Ria Mckay at Manila Polo Club; 3. In the pool with instructor Akiko Thompson (front, lower right); 4. Supportive parents Gina and Chris Lim with their swimmer, Via; 5. Swimmer Roman Recto with daddy Eric and coach Ria Mckay; 6. Ultra marathoner Chris Pollard and triathlete Rick Yupangco; 7. Good-looking athletic couple, Fred and Carrie Uytengsu; 8.Proud dad Peter Yabut with his little contender; 9. Fastest and cutest swimmers of Manila Polo Club

4

My trying-hard triat

From page F1

Actually I had always thought of myself as a triathlete, until hunk director Lino Cayetano, who told me that a true triathlete has to complete at least two triathlons in a year, shredded my high self-image. Two a year? Wow, don't triathletes have day jobs?

So it seems that technically my brief stint as a triathlete was only good for 2003 and I will be demoted or something by the athletic cognoscenti unless I join a race. So now, I only brag about my "good old days as a triathlete" to those unfamiliar with the sport, so they don't know any better and are simply amazed with my accomplishment.

Of the three disciplines, swimming is my favored and strongest section. It is also the first leg so the adrenalin rush is overwhelming. Though my not-even-close-to-Olympic speed in freestyle is average, I have become faster thanks to my training with Ria McKay (0917-8996545) and her Total Immersion Class. I have cut my time in half, completing a 1,000-meter swim now in about 25 minutes. When I started, I swam at about the pace of a nudibranch, finishing the kilometer in 45 minutes. The lessons have taught me to be more efficient and pace my energy so I can swim and glide like a dolphin.

My newfound talent in the pool propelled me to join the Manila Polo Club Swimming Competition last week. The text from Ria mentioned it was going to be by age groups and only a 50-meter swim. My age bracket, which is 40 going on 20 and perhaps even younger if I ever work up the guts to visit Doctor to the Stars Vicki Belo, has few participants so I figured I was sure to win and get a medal.

Swimming would be my big chance at the Polo Club Championships this year, at which I've never won a medal. This year I tried badminton with my partner, slimmer and transformed cousin Reni Roxas, but lost all matches (can't wait until next year when I am more serious and just as noisy). I also didn't do too well at the Polo Club Golf Championships, because I didn't wake up for the 8 a.m. tee time.

I went straight to the Polo pool from my belly-dancing classes with sultry Ginajane Grey. It was exciting as I registered for the swim meet, which was already underway, starting with the younger set of kids. There were only eight ladies present and we were divided into two groups after I protested that ex-national swimmer Inday Bautista could not possibly be put in the same category as me. Hey, the medal battle sometimes is won off the field of combat!

I even made freewheeling and fun Freeway owner Katty Qua join the race so I wouldn't

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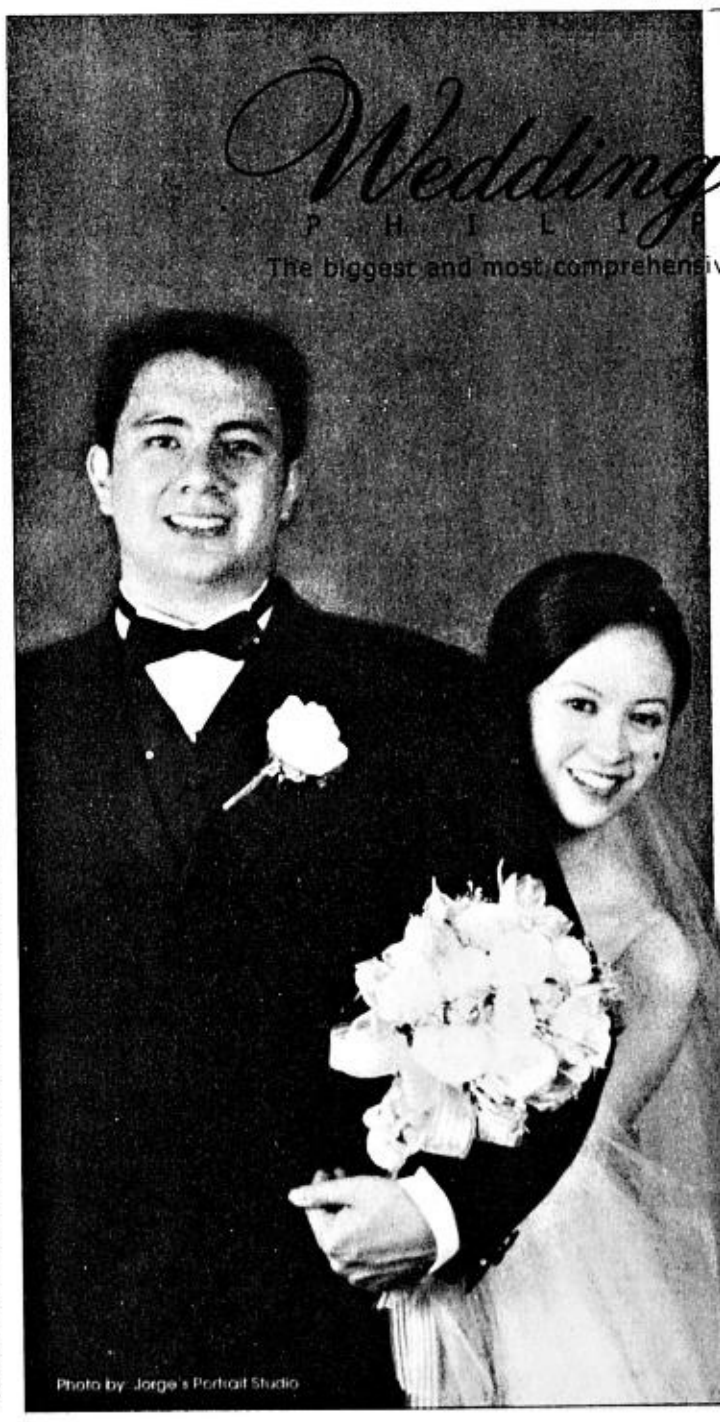

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letic gear, with Adidas executive Angelica Suiza to

hlete self

end up dead last. The two other ladies in our group were closer in age to my 18-year-old son and judging from their swimwear, they were true swimmers. My padded swimsuit must have slowed me down with them acting like sponges, soaked by the end of the race. Unfortunately, I couldn't think of any scheme to put them into Inday's group!

Diving from the board is a challenge because aside from struggling to keep your goggles in place, one has to try to gain extra inches to get a head start. Pretty, swimming champion Akiko Thompson taught me to tuck my head in on the jump. But with zero practice, I swam most of the length with the goggles filled with water. To make a long story short, I placed third among four swimmers.

I was just thrilled to see my ultimate swimmer idol, Fred Uytengsu, win as the fastest swimmer in the club. Personally, of course, Olympic champion Michael Phelps, who just won the individual medley in Athens in record-breaking time, has dethroned him. Requiring mastery of all four swimming strokes, Phelps is phenomenal as an all-around swimmer and is redefining the sport. He may not break Mark Spitz' record, but he is a remarkable talent nonetheless.

Racy

Seeing all those bare, muscular and lean bodies of the triathletes at the starting line is such an awesome sight. And seeing the sinewy, whiplike bodies of the swimmers off the jump board is remarkable. But seeing the half-naked Bench male models on stage with just their tight-fitting underwear is breathtaking!

The annual Bench Underwear and Denim Show has set the bar for the most spectacular and racy performance of 2004. Almost as incredible as the stone-like Adonises at the Olympics opening ceremonies, the Bench boys showed that underwear is truly fashion wear.

Amazing Ben Chan told me that his main problem now was how to produce a better show next year. The sold-out-weeks-before, one-night-only Bench production opened with giant drums played by Japanese (Tokyo Dagekidan) Taiko drummers accompanied by a solo flutist. One by one, the forest setting was covered with models in sexy underwear and playful accessories and stockings.

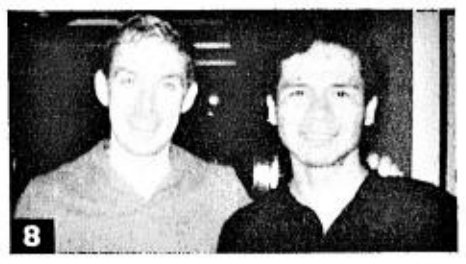
My eager husband Dennis was waiting to check out Francine Prieto to "get to know his in-laws better." One has to be blind to mistake that, with her height and breasts, she is any relation with me. He was disappointed since she came out in a bikini, but covered with layered tulle fabric. In fact, another first-time viewer, my brother Paolo Prieto, expected a Victoria's Secret-type fashion show.

I had a better time seeing my all-time favorite Richard Gomez in just flashy, sequined trunks and a flowing cape that didn't leave much else to be imagined. It was a total contrast to his wife, statuesque Lucy Torres, who was all covered in a golden lace ensemble by Patrice Ramos-Diaz. Belly-dancing classmate Lucy didn't show off any of her curves but had models in trunks surrounding her. How lucky is that!

The main attraction was the acrobat duo Stephane and Emiliano who performed awesome stunts on hanging fabric, much like a cross between Olympians on the rings and the Cirque du Soleil. The French pair has been doing this act for five years now, and Ben flew them in from Paris after catching their show there. The crowd was truly astonished with their contortions and artistry. Their masterful act made this year's show another rung higher up the ever-escalating Bench show ladder.

Good luck, Ben! This will be difficult to surpass.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.



AT THE Bench show and after party: 1. Aileen Litonjua and Jacques Dupasquier; 2. Firma Makati's fab duo Chito Vijandre and Ricky Toledo; 3. Funky designer Puey Quinones and jewelry master Rene Coster; 4. Fun cousins Joey Carpo and Paolo Prieto; 5. Fashion director Ariel Lozada; 6. Malu Gamboa carried by acrobatic duo Stéphane and Emiliano with Miguel Pastor; 7. Incredible partners, Ben Chan and Miguel Pastor; 8. At Cirkulo Restaurant with Andy Ball and Augie Paculdar

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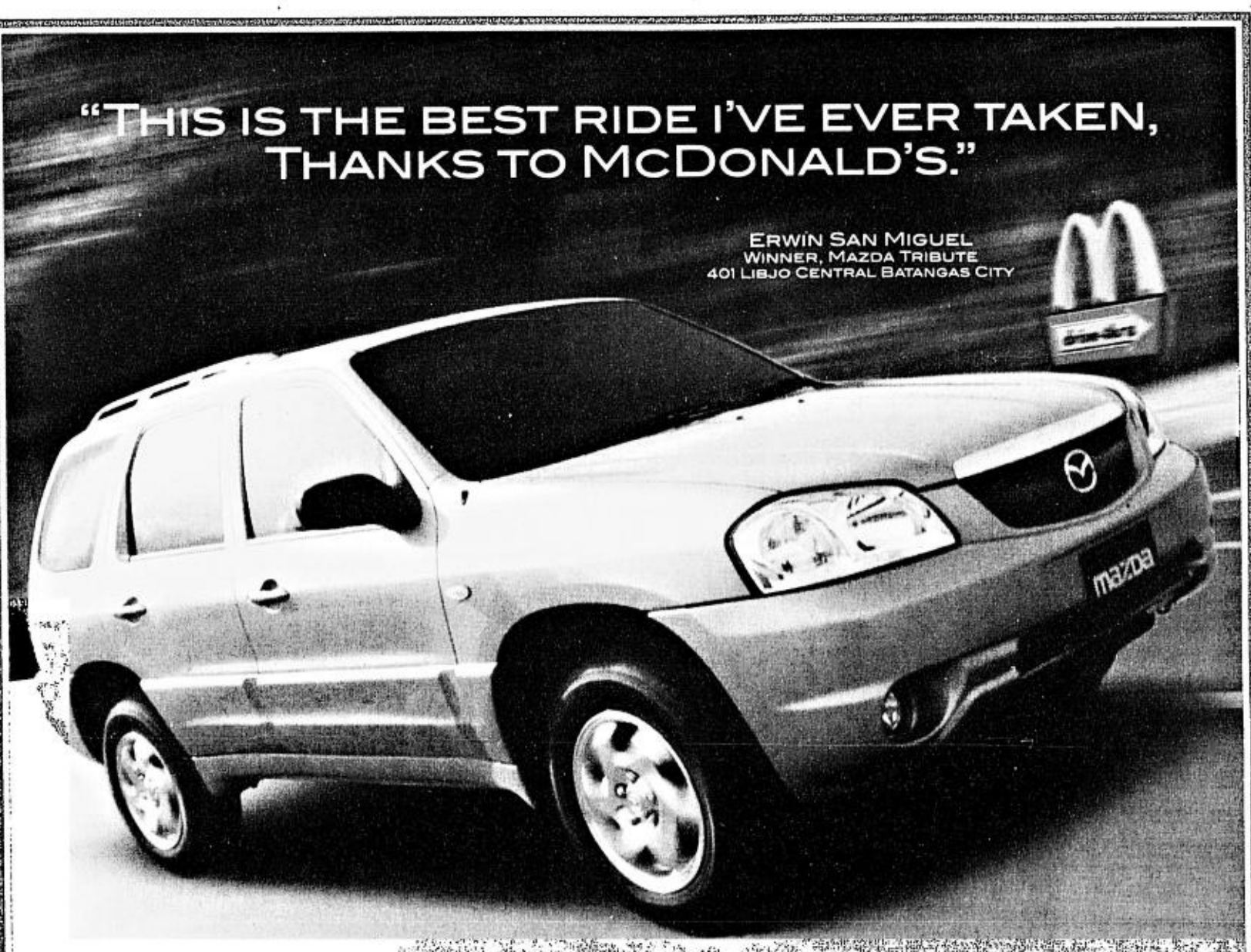

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Drive-Thru

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EJ8	Circle Of Life
EJ9	Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word
EJ10	Don't Go Breaking My Heart
EJ11	Can You Feel The Love Tonight
EJ12	This Train Don't Stop Here Anymore

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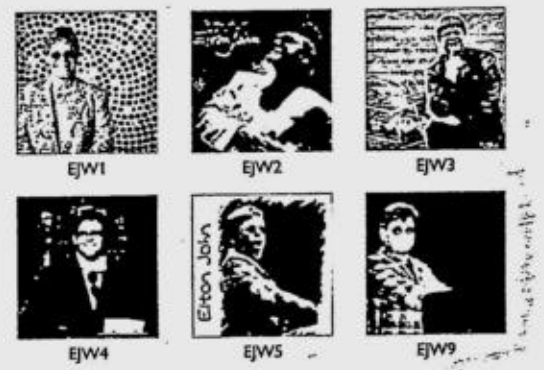

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LICAYAN-HIZON NUPTIALS

A 'best friends' wedding

Gilbert Licayan and Lorraine Hizon were officemates and confidantes before they made their trip to the altar

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By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

BEFORE LOVE bloomed between Gilbert Licayan and Lorraine Hizon, the couple had been to three continents and was completely unaware of their fate.

They saw each other in Manila in 1998, formally met in 2000 in Fairfax, Virginia, where they became coworkers in an information technology firm, and went to London for a holiday in August 2001. Little did they know that their special friendship would lead them to the altar. They were apparently destined to fall in love—and get married.

Gilbert and Lorraine met in February 2000, when the Manila office of their international consultancy firm, Headstrong, formerly James Martin & Co., assigned them to work in Virginia. He, a business economics graduate, is a manager of HR management systems, while she, a certified public accountant, is the manager of global finance. Both are UP Diliman graduates.

"We became very good friends," says Lorraine. "We would always go out for dinner, shopping, watch a movie with friends or even just the two of us. We were like siblings. I looked at him as the brother I never had. I never really thought we'd end up with each other."

Being away from their families made Gilbert and Lorraine closer while working in the United States. Aside from doing things together after office hours or during weekends, they also found themselves unloading their personal and professional problems at each other.

"We would always stick with each other since we were the only ones here and we lived so far from our families," says Gilbert. "It helped that you had someone to talk to whenever you needed one. She was not only a friend to me, she was also a confidante and adviser."

Their respective jobs allowed them to travel to different countries. In August 2001, Gilbert and Lorraine went to London for a tour. When they returned to Virginia a week before that fateful Sept. 11 tragedy, they found themselves in love.

"I guess the feeling was there long before we traveled to London," Gilbert confesses. "It was just that we

A 'BEST FRIENDS'/ G2

WITH PRINCIPAL sponsors: Cherry de Guzman, Dr. Lillian Juadiong, Mila Torculas-Sanchez, Sigrid Datumanong, Dr. Marlye Angeles, Nora Terrado, Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano; (R-L, front row) Hon. Simeon Datumanong, Rito Magpatoc, Chito de la Vega, Salvador Torculas, Gerardo Surla, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Jerome Juadiong and Melvin de Guzman

WITH THEIR parents, Anthony and Evalyn Hizon, and George and Ludy Licayan

WITH INQUIRER editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc (third from right), the groom's parents, and PDI employees: Libre editor in chief Chito de la Vega, Margie de la Vega, Cita Goyagoy, Medy Gregorio, Louie Panlilio, Thillie Panlilio and Rudy Gregorio

A 'best friends' wedding

From page G1

were both too preoccupied to acknowledge it. We nurtured our special feelings through our friendship. After London, we realized we were really in love and there was no need to hide it."

However, Lorraine was totally caught by surprise when Gilbert popped the question to her. He had planned about doing his proposal in a more romantic way, but they ended up face to face with each other in her house one weekend, where she readily said "yes" to him.

"I was taking up my two masters, MBA and Masters of HR Management, as a company scholar at the Keller Graduate School in Washington, D.C. One Saturday, I planned to go about it in this place with a gazebo that I asked my other friends about," says Gilbert. "I asked her to pack for a picnic, but my classes ended earlier that day, so I went to her house and she was not yet prepared. I thought of the next best alternative place to propose to her, but as she was sweeping the floor, I simply knelt before her and offered her the ring."

They hugged each other and cried afterward.

Mutual anchors

Gilbert found an anchor in Lorraine—and vice versa. "She is very caring and understanding," he says. "She is beautiful in my eyes. We talk about everything. We always have open communication lines. That way, we can always talk about how we can resolve the problem we're facing."

Lorraine, for her part, enjoys talking to Gilbert. "We have the same wavelength. We can talk for hours and don't get tired of it. But sometimes, we'd also have petty fights and arguments. I hate it when he gets glued to the TV or the PlayStation."

When the two decided to get married, both of them agreed to hold it in Manila, where all their family members, friends and other relatives could attend.

The couple exchanged marriage vows before sunset on May 21 at the Shrine of Jesus, The Way, The Truth and The Life Parish on Macapagal Avenue in Pasay City. The Mass was officiated by Rev. Fr. Noel Cabungcal. Dinner reception followed at the Mindanao Ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza with about 300 guests.

Gilbert, a consistent scholar and a high school valedictorian, is the second among the three children of George and Ludy Licayan, a former INQUIRER employee. His wedding is the first for the family. Lorraine is the only child of Anthony and Dr. Evalyn Hizon.

Principal sponsors during the wedding were Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Hon. Simeon Datumanong, Gerardo Surla, Salvador Torculas, Rito Magpatoc, Melvin de Guzman, Odelon de Guzman, INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, Sigrid Datumanong, Nora Terrado, Dr. Marlye Angeles, INQUIRER editor in chief Letty Jimenez Magsanoc, Marissa Ayabe, Ellie Gan Chua, Dr. Lillian Juadiong and Angeli Valenciano.

Gilbert's brother, Gerald, stood as his best man, while Lorraine's college best friend, Myra Jimenez, was the matron of honor. The couple chose Matthew Angeles and Mark Alvin Sanchez for their groomsmen, and Inna Surla and Gina Lynn Licayan, sister of the groom, for their bridesmaids. Members of the entourage consisted of family and very close friends.

The wedding had a Victorian concept with peach, pink and gold color motifs. The main inspiration came from Pfaltzgraff ceramics, which were given to the guests. The wedding cake, flowers by Flowers of May, and the whole look and feel of the wedding were inspired by these wedding favors.

The cake, designed by Alex Franco, was beautifully adorned with fresh flowers, a Mikasa porcelain couple and carriage. Personalized Waterford flutes and cake slicer and server were used during the cake-cutting ceremony.

Gilbert serenaded his new wife with his own version of Josh Groban's "You're Still You," accompanied by the Bagting Hangin string quartet. The bride was beaming in her Marlene Macelo gown. Ador Reyer provided the brides' hair and makeup.

The wedding was documented by Emil Buencamino and Mang Lorenzo. Guests enjoyed their disposable cameras, which the couple provided to allow them to capture candid moments of the event.

After their altar date, Gilbert and Lorraine honeymooned in Bangkok, before resuming their work in Virginia, where they have started a new life as husband and wife.

GILBERT and Lorraine Licayan

WITH THE ENTOURAGE: Myra Duque-Jimenez, Gina Lynn Licayan, Selina Surla, Katherine Pacheco, Liberty Tradel, Ma. Lourdes Torculas, Moses de Guzman III, Roel Catapang, Gary del Rosario, Dr. Matthews Angeles, Mark Alvin Sanchez, Gerald Licayan, Bible bearer Ethan Flaminiano, and flower girls Ysobelle Gan, Reece Abes, Keala Leyretana and Sophia Gianni Custodio

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — "POSITIVE"

ACROSS

1 Wages received during an illness
8 Iris family member
14 Uses up
20 Being rented out
21 Repair the surface of
22 Eye layer
23 Start of a question
25 High-kicking dance
26 Moor
27 Actor Holm
28 "Platoon" setting, briefly
30 Water slide
31 Airport abbr.
32 Question, part 2
37 Spot to drink a spot
40 2000 title role for Richard Gere
41 Asia's neighbor: Abbr.
42 Mothers
43 Seance visitors
46 Former nuclear power agcy.
48 — Tuesday (pop group)
50 Scottish cap
52 Question, part 3
56 Nonsense
58 School bigwigs
59 Male, e.g.
60 Small whirlwind of dry regions
62 Pigpen
63 "Isn't that adorable!"
66 Portray in words
69 Tigger's pal
70 Flex
71 Question, part 4
75 Islamic prince
78 Form-1040 org.
79 German article
80 "Andy Capp" wife
81 Very long time
84 Hackers' targets
87 Abbr. after a list
89 Watergate figure
91 Two of —
92 Question, part 5
97 Gents
98 Run-in
100 Also
101 Pitch deliverer
102 Holy — (office of the pope)
104 Hairpiece
106 Samuel's mentor
108 Syria's area
111 Question, part 6
116 Lucy of "Ally McBeal"
117 Nebraska city
118 Biblical verb ending
119 Bus. bigwig
120 Football legend Lynn
122 Spin
124 Reply to the question
129 Made level
130 Gomez or Morticia
131 Like a person's junior
132 Passover feasts
133 Allergic reactions
134 Hangs around

DOWN

1 "Who cares?"
2 "Is it hot — or is it me?"
3 Completely obvious
4 Lane's co-worker
5 Walkway
6 Bonfire residue
7 "— -hawl"
8 Floorboard sound
9 Met with alumni
10 Frequently, in verse
11 Indy entry
12 New England sch.
13 Lobbyists' target
14 Nero's 700
15 Centipede's supper
16 Netherlands city
17 Like the period when a hen sits on eggs
18 Very tidy
19 Less loco
24 Nothing
29 Gives lip
32 Labor
33 ". . . blackbirds baked in —"
34 Pick a card
35 Checklist bit
36 Prefix with angle
38 Bridge
39 Warn like a snake
44 NFL stats
45 Pie part
47 Rechewed food
49 Old Ford
51 Pinochle action
52 Commercials
53 Tuna trapper
54 Rusting agent
55 Brusque
57 McEntire of country
61 Saw, say
64 Axis-vs.-Allies event
65 Present everywhere
67 AT&T rival
68 "Read my lips: — taxes"
71 Land in the 108 Across
72 Consumer
73 Green and Thomas
74 President between Jimmy and George
75 Dutch cheese
76 Stirs
77 Traveled from place to place
81 Jumbo
82 "— -la-la!"
83 Opposite SSW
85 Four-term pres.
86 Pose
88 Fez, e.g.
90 "Got it"
93 Rejections
94 Caffeine-containing nut
95 VCR display
96 "Witness" director Peter
99 Possess
103 Fuel gas
105 Really go places
107 Revenue
109 Alto, e.g.
110 Specialists with forks
111 Yawn inducers
112 Consumer
113 Valerie Harper sitcom
114 Whoville creator
115 Triumphed
120 Feng —
121 Crave
123 Asner and Ames
125 Avos.
126 Folksy-sounding approval
127 Popeye's Olive
128 Dove's sound

answer on page F2

BANLAOI-LAGOS

Ma. Rosario Lagos, daughter of Dr. **Alsaneo** and **Ma. Lina Lagos,** and **Erwin Banlaoi,** son of **Rosendo** and **Narcisa Banlaoi,** exchanged vows Aug. 20 at the Greenhills Christian Fellowship.

The bride wore a **Leonard Co** creation of ecru duchess sateen top with off-shoulder pleated dropped sleeves, and a bouffant skirt with a three-meter cathedral train beaded in sand-cut crystal and pearl nacre.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

GUERRERO-RAMOS

Geran Guerrero and **Judith Ramos** will tie the knot on Aug. 28 at the Christ the King Church. The bride will wear a French-inspired gown by **Ramon Esteban.**

TAMAYO-PARAS

Benjamin M. Tamayo, son of **Buenaventura** and **Precilla Tamayo,** and **Ma. Irelyn F. Paras,** daughter of **Alberto** and **Ilumina-da Paras,** exchanged vows recently at the Batis Asul, Angeles City.

Pablito Mallari Jr. of the Angeles City Bible Church officiated at the wedding.

BERNARDINO DEBUT

Ma. Katrina Camille "Kit" Bernardino, daughter of **Mario** and **Mayleen Bernardino,** celebrated her 18th birthday recently at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La.

The debutante is a student at the Poveda Learning Center. Her gown, designed by **Leo Espinosa,** was a Renaissance-inspired bouffant gown of stitch tulle with a heart-shaped bodice encrusted with Swarovski crystals.

VELEZ-RAGOT

Kim Velez, son of Mr. and Ms **Benjamin Velez,** and **Jennifer Ragot,** daughter of **Thelma C. vda de Ragot,** tied the knot Aug. 18 in St. Paul's Church, Matina, Davao City. Reception followed at the Davao Regal Hotel.

The bride's gown was designed by **Otoy Mercado.**

ONG DEBUT

Joanna Kim Alba Ong, daughter of **Johnny** and **Alona Ong,** celebrated her debut at the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko yesterday, Aug. 21. An AB Psychology student at the Ateneo de Manila, she had a fairy/fantasy theme party with lilac and pink as color motifs. Her gown was designed by **Tito Franco.**

EDSA Shangri-La Hotel recently sponsored "Before I Say I Do," a talk conducted by Anthony Pangilinan and Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan, for its soon-to-be-married clients.

Exhibit of 2005 bridal trends today

BRIDAL trends for 2005 will be presented in "Wedding Celebrations 2005," 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Aug. 22 at the Isla Ballroom and Convention Center of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Considered the biggest event of its kind, it will feature over 150 exhibits of wedding concepts, cakes, floral arrangements, photography, stationery, souvenirs and more.

Highlight of the fair is the Bridal Gala fashion show featuring designs by over 30 members of the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines. Admission is free.

In connection with the upcoming exhibition, the hotel hosted recently cocktails for its bridal fair exhibitors.

Theme of the affair was "Fabulous '50s" and the exhibitors and the hotel's marketing team came appropriately dressed. Awards were given for the best and wackiest costumes.

Edsa Shangri-La's general manager Wolfgang Krueger and director of events management Chaela Canlas presented awards to the most loyal exhibitors for supporting the hotel's yearly fair.

Meanwhile, Edsa Shangri-La, Manila, organized recently a seminar to help soon-to-wed couples cope with the non-material aspects of wedding preparations.

The Parenting Company of Anthony and Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan discussed the topic "Before I Say I Do." The one-day event talked about the strengths and weaknesses of a relationship, ways to shape a blissful future, and provided a guide in designing frameworks for intimacy, sexuality and individuality.

Edsa Shangri-La also held a mini-exhibit, Bridal Treat, that showcased Edsa Shangri-La's wedding packages.

Call Edsa Shangri-La at 6369062. Interested exhibitors for "Wedding Celebrations 2005" may call Events by Gigi Bautista at 7500314.

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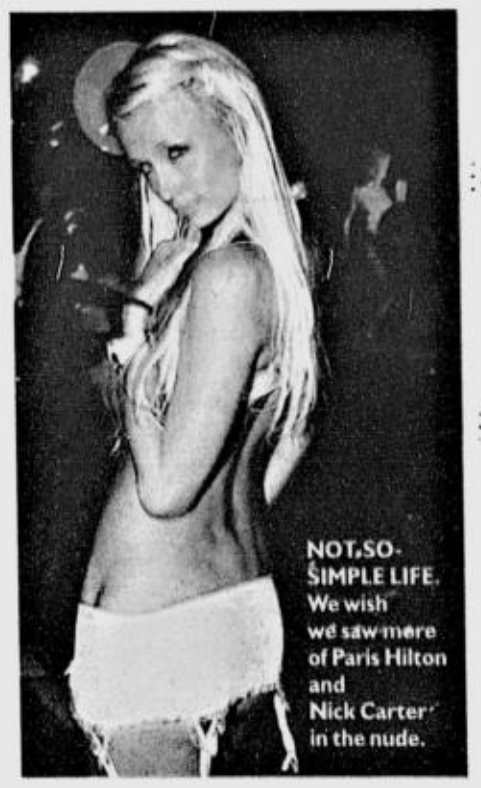
What we would like to see less and more of



T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

MUST-HAVE clothes—Balenciaga. Nicholas Ghesquière's work for Balenciaga has won the hearts of many fashionistas and editors. This season, he excites his fans once again with his capsule collection called Balenciaga.Edition. This collection is sure to become the fancy of vintage clothing lovers as Ghesquière based his designs on the archives of the house's founder, **Cristobal Balenciaga.** There are only six styles to choose from, each evoking the mood and genius of Balenciaga himself; at the same time they are rendered new by Ghesquiere's unique talent.

As the favored designer of such style-savvy individuals like **Kate Moss, Jade Jagger** and **Naomi Campbell,** the Balenciaga.Edition collection is sure to fly off the shelves almost instantaneously. The Balenciaga.Edition line is available at Homme et Femme at the 3/L Shangri-La Plaza mall.

Scent-sational. There are two colognes out in the market that I love and swear by—Hierbas de Ibiza and Comptoir Sud Pacifique-Bois de Filao. Both have refreshing, citrusy and energizing scents that everyone will love. It's perfect also for the humid, sunny-wet weather we are experiencing. The scents, which are selling like crazy, are available at Essenses in Rustan's department store.

Must-have swimming goggles—Nike's strapless goggles. The Olympics are here so if you are planning to ever compete (fantasizing is free, so why not?) in them, then you might as well look the part. There are numerous high-tech styles that have come up, especially in the swimming events, all designed to shave off a hundredth of a second off your time.

The only downside to all this technology is, why is everyone so covered up? It's not as interesting anymore. (Now if they do that to the diving competition, I am switching to the ping-pong events.) These Nike strapless goggles are affixed to your eye sockets and have a waterproof adhesive that's so high-tech that it won't come off, ever... just kidding!

It's siesta time—MetroNaps pods. When I was in New York about two months ago, I was invited by a friend to check out this gadget on the 37th floor of the Empire State building. It looked like a space-age way of getting a hot oil or perm treatment, but was I wrong. It's called MetroNaps pods designed for hardworking executives, stressed-out shoppers, tourists and maybe those with narcolepsy, to take power naps. I tried it out for a fee of $14 and it was very comfortable. It provides a visual and auditory effect that induces you to sleep. Then after about 20 minutes, the seat vibrates and light comes on to wake you up. Power napping is not new—heck, just ask most of your employees, and take out the "power" part.

Studies, however, show it improves one's performance and ability to concentrate and be more productive. But remember it has to be only 20 minutes; more than that, you need to just go home, put your jammies on and get some shuteye.

Five things we wish we had more and less of. I started out with a long list for this week and cut it short. It's a list of what I would like to see more --and less-- of. Am sure you will agree with most of my wishes.

More of:

1. **Paris Hilton** scandals and sex tapes. Rumors have it that when her home (which she shares with her sister **Nicky**) was burglarized, the thieves stole 11 Hermès Birkin bags and a video with her and ex-boyfriend, ex-Backstreet boy **Nick Carter**, en flagrante. Another best-selling video in the making.
2. Bench underwear fashion shows.
3. Modern-day Filipino heroes like NYC taxi driver **Nestor Sulpico**, who returned $70,000 worth of rare black pearls. Honesty, a rare commodity these days, is a trait we all should honor and follow.
4. People who care for the arts and culture of our country. I recommend having a minister of arts and culture whose duty is to promote and preserve our arts from movies, paintings, poetry, music, etc. As of the moment, there are very few individuals who are concerned with it. Paging President **Macapagal-Arroyo!**
5. People who learn to be gracious and grateful.

Less of:

1. Policemen who wait for motorists to cross the bus lane in Edsa, especially on a Sunday, and you know all they are waiting for is a dole-out.
2. Starlets like **Keana Reeves** (hmmm, wonder where she got that from, very original) who want to do an exposé on politicians who hire them for extracurricular activities, but don't carry it through.
3. Bitter people who spew venom whenever they speak.
4. Crazy bus, taxi and jeepney drivers who think that Edsa is a Formula 1 racetrack.
5. Senators who grandstand and senators like **Lito Lapid** and **Bong Revilla** who don't say anything.

E-mail the author at antonsd@philtatler.com

WANT to look like an Olympian? Then wear Nike's strapless goggles.

MUST-HAVE clothes—Balenciaga. Sketches by Nicholas Ghesquière of an updated look by Cristobal Balenciaga. Balenciaga is available at Homme et Femme, 3/L Shangri-La Plaza Edsa.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2004

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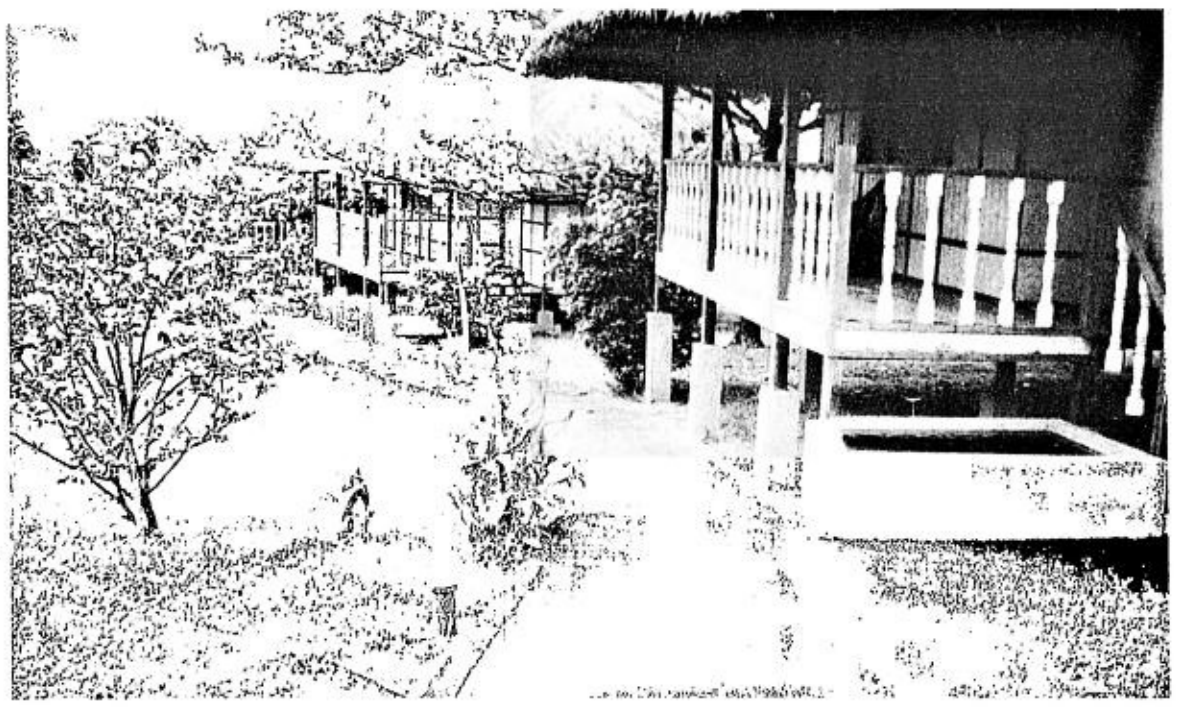
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

AL fresco dining hall where excellent French-Filipino cuisine is served



ATTRACTIVE, native-style family cottages of the Petit Baguio Ecotourism Inn

ORANI, BATAAN

Protected area, endangered zone

Text and photos by Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

ALONG THE FOOTHILLS of Mt. Natib in Orani, Bataan, just two hours from Metro Manila, in the barangay of Tala, passing through a dirt road and some sparse communities, you will come upon Le Petit Baguio Ecotourism Inn, which is like a mirage with its verdant and well-maintained botanical gardens.

A discordant note is immediately struck, however, when you see a sign of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources lying forlorn by the wayside, entrance point for trekkers to the mountain. The sign declares in Filipino that Mt. Natib is a Protected Area, part of the Bataan Natural Park, and that destructive forms of farming, along with the hunting and killing of animals, are prohibited here. Is the injunction being followed?

Le Petit Baguio is like a poem in the wilderness: think of William Butler Yeats' "Picture and book remain/An acre of green grass..." It is owned by Frenchman Jean-Paul Chambouleyron, an ecologist, and his Filipino wife, Lucie, who is from Samal, Bataan.

The inn has attractive, native-style cottages (bamboo, wood and bamboo slats) good for a family of about six. The place is free of pollution and pleasantly cool, so there is no need for air-conditioners. The master bed has a mosquito net in case of need.

At the end of the row of cottages is a small, al fresco dining hall with white curtains and bamboo slats. It is here where Lucie prepares her delicious French and Filipino meals. That day, travel mate Renato and I had baked fish terrine, cut *embotido*-style and served with paté de poisson, duck *adobo*, and a succulent chicken dish that was even better than our *afritada*.

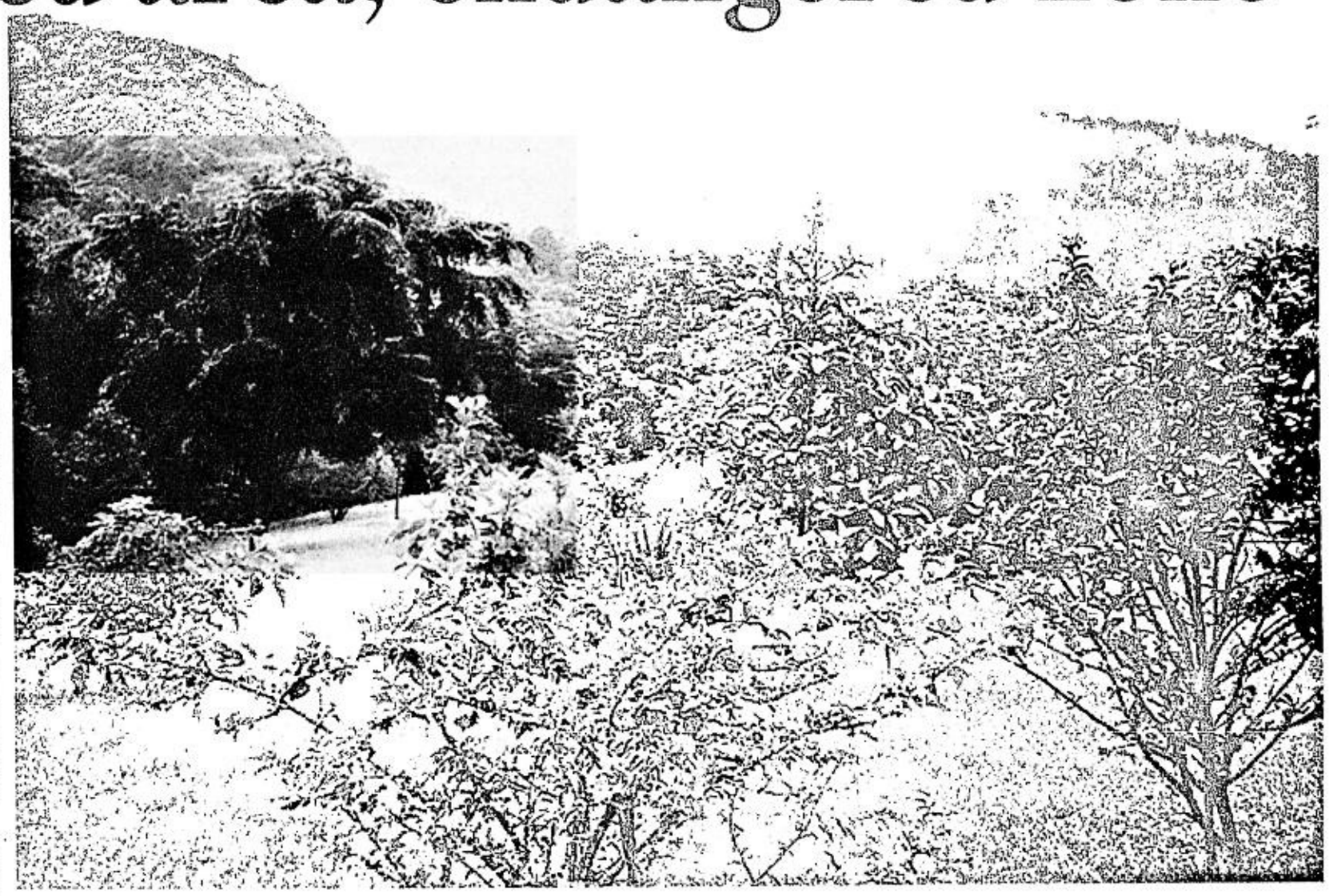
The Chambouleyrons have two local pet dogs, Blackie and Tintin, who are adored by their French master. The dogs understand only French. You speak to them in Tagalog and they give you a blank stare. So you have to make do with the little French that you know: "Silence, *si'l te plait*, Blackie! *Ta voix est tres fort*." That quieted him down. Voila.

Since they moved in during the 1990s, the Chambouleyrons have planted hundreds of trees. Of the resort's 17 hectares, five hectares have been developed for a promenade trail, which is Jean-Paul's pride and joy. There's also a two-hectare coffee plantation and a farm which provides eggs, meat and other fresh produce.

Ugly head

Abuse of the environment, however, has reared its ugly head. The inn is bracketed by cross-breeding fighting cock farms which are illegal in this mountain sanctuary. Unsightly chicken shelters can be seen from the resorts, and land has been cleared to accommodate these.

The farms are owned by big businessmen from Pampanga and Metro Manila. The cross-



WELL-MAINTAINED botanical gardens and forests near endangered Mt. Natib

A Frenchman and a Filipina are struggling to protect what is supposed to be a protected forest

breeding has wiped out the *labuyo* (wild chicken) population and brought diseases, red lice and soil erosion. The wild animals of the forest prey on these cocks and are, in turn, shot by the guards and caretakers.

The cocks are said to number in the thousands, and can be heard intermittently. To Pinoy ears, used to noise, the din isn't much, but it bothers the expatriates whom the resort caters to. "When they heard the noise they thought people were quarrelling," said Lucie. As a result, some of the guests didn't come back. Others returned, but a few brought ear muffs!

One of the c'mons of the resort is that it is near Mt. Natib, a popular trekking destination for students, and also near the "big and beautiful" Orani River, accessible through a downward trek through the forest. It was showering that day, however, and we decided not to tackle the slippery trails.

"We used to have a sanctuary for *kuwago* (owls)," recalled Lucie. "The mother would bring rats as food for her babies. They would come here every year, but later we would hear that they had been shot."

"I'm protecting the environment but it's frustrating," added Jean-Paul. "I have been reforesting the place. We have a beautiful collection of Philippine wood, 60 species of bamboo. I want to preserve Philippine flora. *J'aime le flore et les orchideés des* Philippines. *Je suis passioné de les fleurs des* Philippines. (I love the flora and the orchids of the Philippines. I am passionate about the flowers of the Philippines.)"

This Frenchman made me appreciate even more the natural beauty of our country. The word "beautiful" recurred often as he led us through the botanical gardens and the promenade trail through the nearby forest, wet after rain showers.

"There are 2,500 Philippine species of trees, ornamental trees and plants," Jean-Paul, who describes himself as an amateur botanist, informed us. "They are beautiful wood, all botanical species. There are endemic Philippine species. You have beautiful wood, you don't need to import."

Endangered fauna

The flora are as endangered as the fauna of Mt. Natib: owls, wild boar, bats, snakes, monitor lizards, monkeys, deer and the Philippine eagle.

"They're killing all the wild animals," declared Jean-Paul. "We used to have five Philippine hawk eagles, including a beautiful female, but they were killed and sold. There are no more *usa* (deer). Every night they would shoot *paniquis* (bats). Between November and April, they killed 700 *paniquis*, which are sold P100 a piece. It's a scandal."

Not only that. According to the resort owner, even the pregnant birds and mothers are being killed. "The babies cannot survive," said Jean-Paul. "I tell them (the local communities), don't kill the mother. You kill the mother and the baby will die. You kill the baby and the mother will cry."

The Chambouleyrons had appealed to former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, but are not even sure if the letter reached him. With the help of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, they are now bringing their case to Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun.

Flash-forward. At a recent press conference, I asked the DENR secretary if she was aware of the plight of Mt. Natib. She said she was not, promised to look into the situation and instructed her staff to get the details. So, perhaps, we will finally see some action to save Mt. Natib.

The messages being disseminated to us that day at Le Petit Baguio were urgent and disturbing, but the visit ended on a happy note. It had rained that afternoon and the gardens looked beautiful. "On a day like this," sighed Lucie, "you can forget your problems."

TravelBriefs

Bohol's cozy, restful address

BOHOL'S Ananyana suites synthesize safety, wanderlust and home. With only eight suite rooms and two family suites, Ananyana is an intimate space.

All suites are spaciously arranged. The unique family suites cover two floors and include a semi-open bathroom. King-size beds and the ultramodern, extra-silent air-conditioning ensure a quiet, refreshing sleep. Each morning the visitor is greeted by a breathtaking view from the balcony or patio of the impressive vegetation and the crystal-clear ocean.

The open restaurant features Asian and international delicacies. In the beach bar, guests are served with small snacks and delicious drinks. The souvenir shop has wonderful samples of Philippine arts and crafts. The exceptionally designed playground is a treat for kids.

Ananyana is just a 20-minute drive from the airport in Tagbilaran.

Bohol beckons

WHEN in Bohol, why not stay at the Bohol Beach Club on Panglao Island?

With its vast expanse of fine, powdery white-sand beach, Bohol Beach Club is perfect for romantic getaways.

Bohol is two hours by plane from Manila and 25 minutes from Mactan. By fast ferry, the province is just an hour and a half away from Cebu.

Buy one trip, take one free

CAUSEWAY Tours is extending its buy one-take one free offer.

Sept. 3-5 is a three-day rediscovery tour of the North that includes visits to the Shrine of Manaog in Pangasinan; heritage village of Vigan in Ilocos Sur; centuries-old churches of Paoay, Sarrat and Laoag in Ilocos Norte, and the museums and ivory beach of Pagudpud.

On Sept. 10-12, the tour will cover the Ifugao Province with the world-famous rice terraces and the towns of Bontoc and Sagada in Mountain Province.

A trip to Cagayan on Sept. 24-26 includes visits to centuries-old churches of Tumauini and San Pablo in Isabela, Tuguegarao, Iguig and the Shrine of Piat, plus a side trip to the Callao Caves.

Call 4725563 and 0916-3963963.

Lounge for travelers

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines reopened recently the fully renovated and refurnished KLM Junior Jet Lounge at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport. The lounge is for young passengers, aged 5-17, traveling without an accompanying adult.

The KLM Junior Jet Lounge is part of KLM's special Unaccompanied Minors Service. Teenagers, 13-17, though allowed to travel alone, are also welcome to use of the service.

Starting Nov. 1, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will fly non-stop from Manila to Europe using the Boeing 777.

The flight departs Manila at 10:30 p.m. and arrives in Amsterdam at 5:30 a.m. the next day.

Call 8154790 to 92 or visit www.klm.com.ph.

Cebu clubs induct new officers

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

ONE could have sworn that the full moon shining on Galapagos beach at Plantation Bay had a pinkish glow. Titang **Cuenco Gonzalez** must have made sure of that. Pink was the color motif of the party she and ever-loving Col. **Antonio Gonzalez** hosted to mark 54 years of bliss, and her birthday.

She looked stunning in a diaphanous creation by **Philip Rodriguez**, and a multi-tiered diamond necklace. Rose petals were strewn on the white sand, and orchids sprayed pink formed chandeliers hanging from the center of white tents.

Titang and Tony were surrounded by their children and grandchildren—**Manny** and **Ellen Gonzalez**, with **Georgy** and **Clara**; **Len-Len** and **Sonny Conejos**, with their strapping young sons **Anton** and **Rocky**. French champagne—Veuve Clicquot—flowed all night.

Gourmet dishes were spread on the buffet tables, abloom with masses of pink roses. For dessert, everyone had scoops of specially made gelato, which must have used a million rose petals. **Joel Lee** makes it on request. The Mutya Strings played beautiful music all night.

Marilou Reyes was congratulated for planning the event, and **Marissa Unchuan** for the monument of a cake, all frothy with pink icing.

Ikebana induction

Filipiniana was the theme for the induction of Ikebana International Cebu Chapter 145, a glamorous occasion held at Fiesta Marcas, with decorator par excellence **Teresing Mendezona** as inducting officer. It was the perfect induction party—just the oath-taking, a short speech, and a nice time for all.

Mariter Dumon Klepp takes over from **Linda To**. She is president for the next two years. The vice presidents were past presidents: **Carmen Go** and **Norma Sanchez**. **Ofelia Rodela** and **Margie Sy** are secretaries, for recording and correspondence, respectively. Treasurers are **Edith Caseñas** and **Betty Uy**.

Completing the roster of officers are **Marissa Unchuan**, PRO; **Decdec Bacungan**, historian; and Linda To, director/adviser. Linda is as busy as ever as she has just assumed the presidency of the prestigious Cebu Garden Club.

The garden club's own induction party was held at Linda's home on the eve of her birthday. Architect **Socorro Atega** was inducting officer. Aside from Linda, other officers are Carmen Go, vice president; **Bella Alix** and **Lourdes Mangubat**, secretaries; **Inday Avila** and **Lucy Segura**, treasurers; **Myrna Allen**, auditor; and **Angeling Escaño** and **Betty Eustaquio**, PROs.

Directors include past president **Ado Macaraya**, **Lilia Hermosisima**, **Fe Mendoza**, **Corazon Mercado**, **Norma Santa Cruz** and **Aurora Dychangco**.

LINDA To, president of the Cebu Garden Club

Meeting the Quota

The induction of the Quota International of Cebu, held at the City Sports Club, was dubbed a blue night. All the Quota ladies came in blue! Foremost among them was charter president **Lydia Ibañez**, who founded the Cebu chapter in 1977 and was hosting the very special evening.

QUOTA Cebu charter president Lydia Ibañez and Cebu City councilor Hilario Davide III

Guest speaker and inducting officer was **Hilario Davide III**, newly elected councilor of Cebu City's North District. Charming and articulate, he is as eloquent as his distinguished father, Supreme Court Chief Justice **Hilario Davide Jr.**

A Quota induction is unique as each officer is apprised of her duties then presented with a rose, a different color for every position. The reelected president is **Josephine Viloria Mapeso**. She will count on the expertise of two former presidents as VPs—**Tita Oppus** and **Sophia Mancao**.

Another former president, **Marcia Lozada Godinez**, is treasurer. She will be assisted by **Linda Rana**. **Evelyn Ramirez** will make a very efficient secretary. Outgoing treasurer **Tina Corominas** is auditor this year. A former president herself, she was given a special commendation this year for raising more than just cash for Quota.

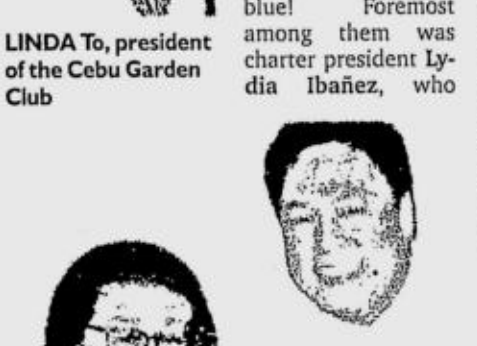
Giving their all to the Quota cause are PRO **Malou Veloso** and directors **Loreta Calderon**, **Cora Cañete**, **Fely Gimarino**, **Lourdes Manigos**, **Barbara Pineda**, **Cecilia Raborar** and **Pinky Shan**.

Lydia was more than pleased when asked to induct new Quota members—**Carla Veloso**, **Jackie Lebumfacil**, **Shirly Abellana**, **Jobel Davide**, **Connie Mapeso**, **Ma. Aurora Prado**, **Jennifer Romero**, **Ma. Theresa Tan**, **Ezperanza Yu** and **Amy Rentuza**.

The Cebu Quota club is involved in various charity protects, the most important of which is for the benefit of hearing-impaired children from poor families. For these beneficiaries, the club holds an annual fund-raising Santacruzan with Lydia's St. Benedict Learning Center.

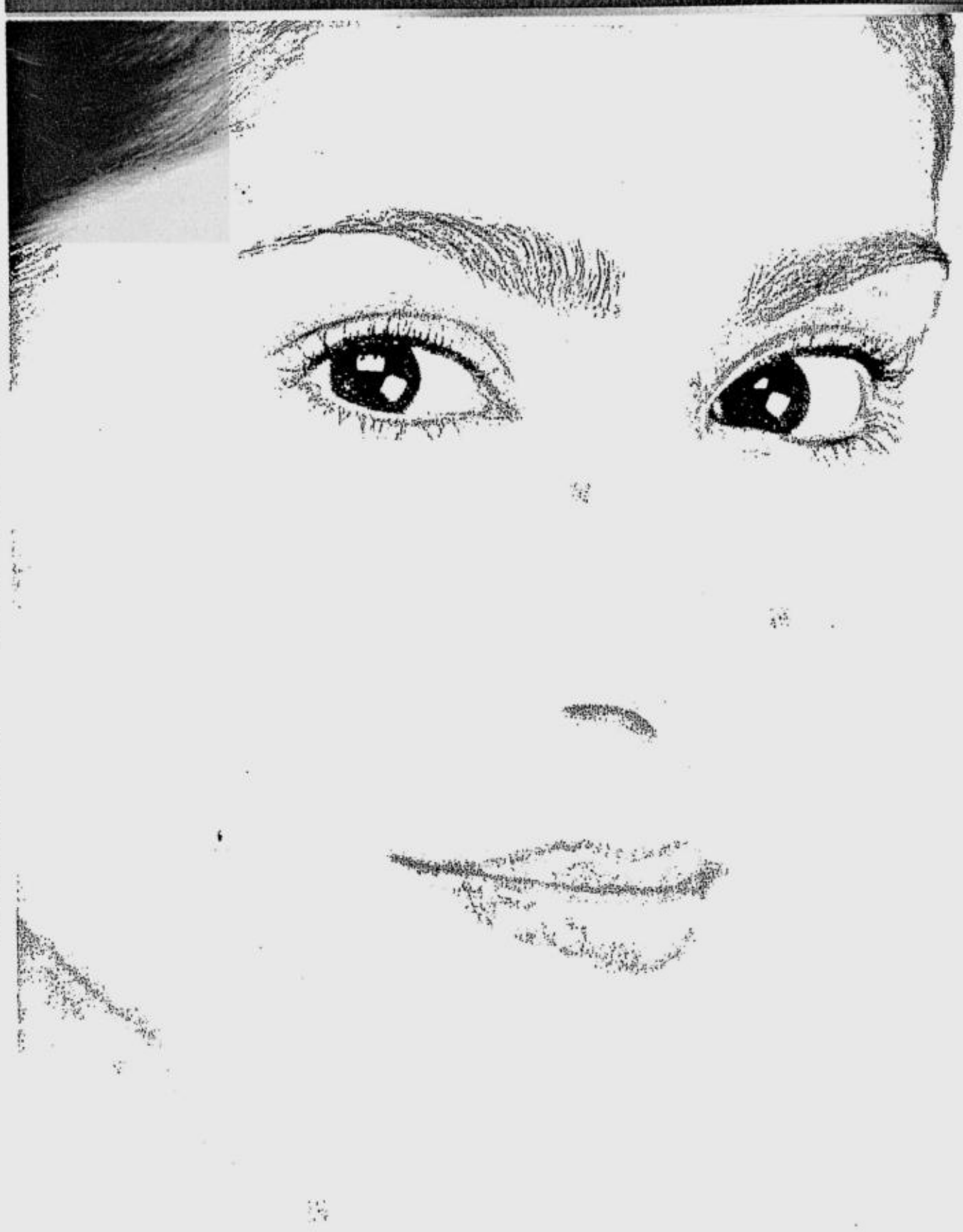
FILIPINIANA for an Ikebana induction—Teresing Mendezona, incoming president Mariter Klepp and Carmen Go

TONY and Titang Gonzalez



REP. and Ms Eduardo Gullas

SOFT, SMOOTH SKIN IS FSD FREE.
Facial Skin Dryness



You may think you have healthy skin. But the truth is, you could have Facial Skin Dryness or FSD and not know it.

FSD happens when the moisture balance of the skin is disrupted due to improper skin care and lifestyle habits. This can happen to any woman at any age. Here are some of the causes of FSD.

Improper skin care habits:
- Frequent use of harsh soaps and scrubs
- Washing with hot water
- Use of strong astringents

Lifestyle habits:
- Smoking
- Drinking too much alcohol
- Stress and lack of sleep
- Frequent sun exposure
- Too much exposure to air conditioning

WATER-BASED and OIL-FREE

If left unchecked, FSD can damage your skin's protective function and may lead to premature wrinkles. To maintain moisture balance and achieve soft, smooth skin, use dermatologist-prescribed Céleteque™ Facial Moisturizer. To know more about Céleteque™ and FSD, ask your dermatologist.

For best results, use with Céleteque™ Facial Wash with NMF.

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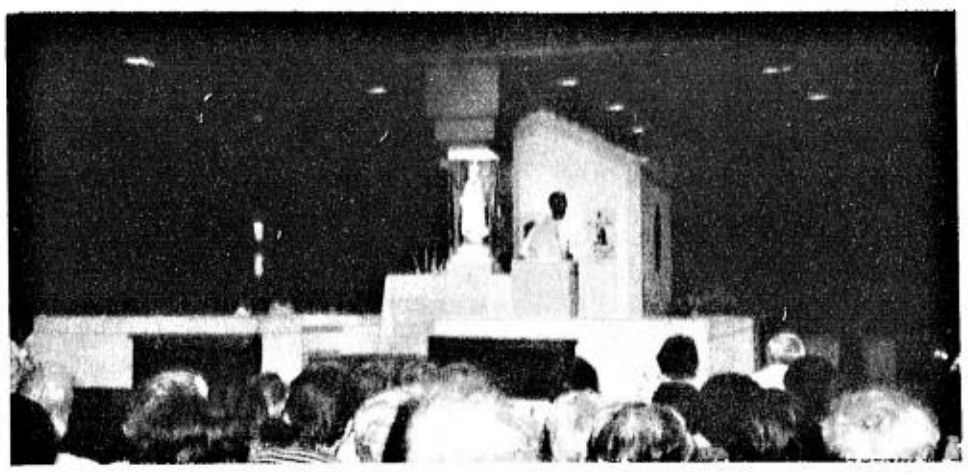
THE RIGHT WAY TO MOISTURIZE YOUR SKIN.

THE BASILICA of Our Lady of Fatima in Fatima, Portugal



THE HOLY Rosary is recited at the Chapel of the Apparitions in various languages, including Tagalog, when I prayed there on Aug. 3.

Tony Nazareno, Porta Vaga Marian promoter, dies on the eve of Assumption feast

'Hail Mary' recited in Tagalog in Fatima

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

HOW beautiful to hear the "Hail Mary" being recited in Tagalog in the Chapel of the Apparitions on the evening of July 30 in Fatima, Portugal. One hundred-two Filipino pilgrims from London and 28 from the Philippines responded, also in Tagalog, while the others replied in their own languages.

I led the last five "Hail Mary's" of the fifth Sorrowful Mystery, after a Vietnamese priest who prayed the first five mysteries. "*Aba Ginoong Maria, napupuno ka ng grasya..,* " my voice reverberated around the walls of the chapel and the Fatima grounds.

I felt that being able to lead was a surprise gift from Mama Mary. Twenty eight of us were brought by Adam's Travel there all the way from the Philippines. Our chaplain, Fr. Carlito Pono, was one of 20 priests who led the procession after the Rosary, passing by the Basilica where Blessed Francisco and Blessed Jacinta are buried.

According to our tour guide, five million pilgrims go every year to Fatima. The Holy Father went there three times. On May 13, 1982, Pope John Paul II came to say "thank you" to Our Lady of Fatima for having escaped death when he was shot the year before in St. Peter's Square. He consecrated the Church and people of all nations to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Then, on May 12 and 13, 1991, he came again, as a pilgrim, on the anniversary of the attempt on his life. The last time was on May 12 and 13, 2000, to beatify Francisco and Jacinta. Sister Lucia, one of the three children to whom Our Lady appeared on May 13, 1917 and many times afterward, was present during that occasion when she revealed the "Third Secret of Fatima."

Goodbye, Tony Nazareno

The devotees of Nuestra Señora Soledad de Porta Vaga lost the principal supporter of the promotion of the devotion when Tony Nazareno passed away on Aug. 14 at the Capitol Medical Center after a massive heart attack.

Fr. Vir Mendoza, Tony's closest friend and mentor, recalls that on Aug. 14, 1984, Tony was waiting for word if the stolen icon of the Virgin would ever be recovered. In March 1984 the miraculous icon of the "Soledad" was stolen from its shrine in San Roque Church in Cavite City. Bishop Cirilo Almario, Bishop Felix Perez and Msgr. Baraquiel Mojica, then parish priest of San Roque Church, approached Tony who was then connected to the Antique Dealers Association of the Phils. (Adap) to help recover the icon. Tony put out ads in the papers promising reward money with no questions asked.

On Aug. 15, 1984, Tony received word that the icon was in Bacolod. After paying P50,000 of his own money, the icon was given to him, but already divested of its jewelry. Tony asked Bishop Perez and Angel Silverio, the president of the pastoral council at that time, to authenticate the icon. When it was authenticated, the three decided to bring it back to the church on Aug. 19, 1984, the day when the replica of the icon would have been blessed.

Much to the surprise of everyone present, the stolen icon was brought in a procession with the "Ave Maria" being sung by a tenor from Manila. There was no stopping the tears flowing from the faces of the people present. And when it was announced that the Virgin needed jewelry for its restoration, people started removing their rings, earrings, necklaces and watches. It was a very emotional moment. Much later, the icon, which was badly damaged, was given to the late Jun Gonzales for restoration. I remember Jun telling in an article that candles were burning all around him as he worked on the icon.

Tricentennial celebration

On April 4, 1992, Tony Nazareno, who is a native of Cavite, invited the press to the launching of the Tricentennial celebration of the enthronement of the Virgin of Porta Vaga on April 12, 1692 by a Spanish soldier named Juan Oliva in the "ermita" or chapel. The press members were brought to Cavite port in a ferry boat from Manila. The launching took place at the Cavite City Hall.

There were two weeks of solemn liturgy celebration and pageantry. Much later, Tony put up the Porta Vaga Socio-Religious and Cultural Foundation to help promote the devotion. The Cofradia de Nuestra Señora Soledad de Porta Vaga, of which he was president, always celebrated the feast of the Virgin which falls on the second Sunday of November.

On the eve of the 20th anniversary of the recovery of the "Soledad" on Aug. 14, the Cofradia, led by Tony, visited the tombs of the priests who helped the propagation of the devotion, namely Msgr. Pedro Larena in St. Peter Cemetery; Bishop Felix Perez at the Imus Cathedral; and Msgr. Baraquiel Mojica in Alfonso, Cavite.

In the afternoon of Aug. 14, when he was in Quezon City, Tony, who was hurting from a heated argument as to the celebration of the 20th year of the recovery of the icon, suffered a massive heart attack. The Virgin took him on the eve of her Assumption into heaven.

An unpublished manuscript on the events commemorating the Tricentennial is waiting to be published. Dulce Festin-Babay wrote it. Those who wish to help get it published can text Fr. Virgilio Mendoza at 0919-8757746.

Goodbye, Tony. Thanks for teaching us the devotion to Our Lady of Soledad of Porta Vaga.

Olongapo chapel needs help

Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Chapel, which is located in New Cabalan, Olongapo City is in dire need of repairs. The chapel which is under the Holy Trinity Parish headed by Rev. Fr. Reynaldo Tumbocon is asking good Samaritans to share their blessings.

Parishioners which come mostly from various *puroks* (barangays) need new chairs, sound system and proper ventilation.

"We are knocking at the doors of our fellows to help us renovate our chapel," said Rodita Macabuhay, coordinator and an official of the Parish Pastoral Council. Bless Manalo, another active parishioner, expressed hopes that the chapel will be able to get enough funds to start renovation.

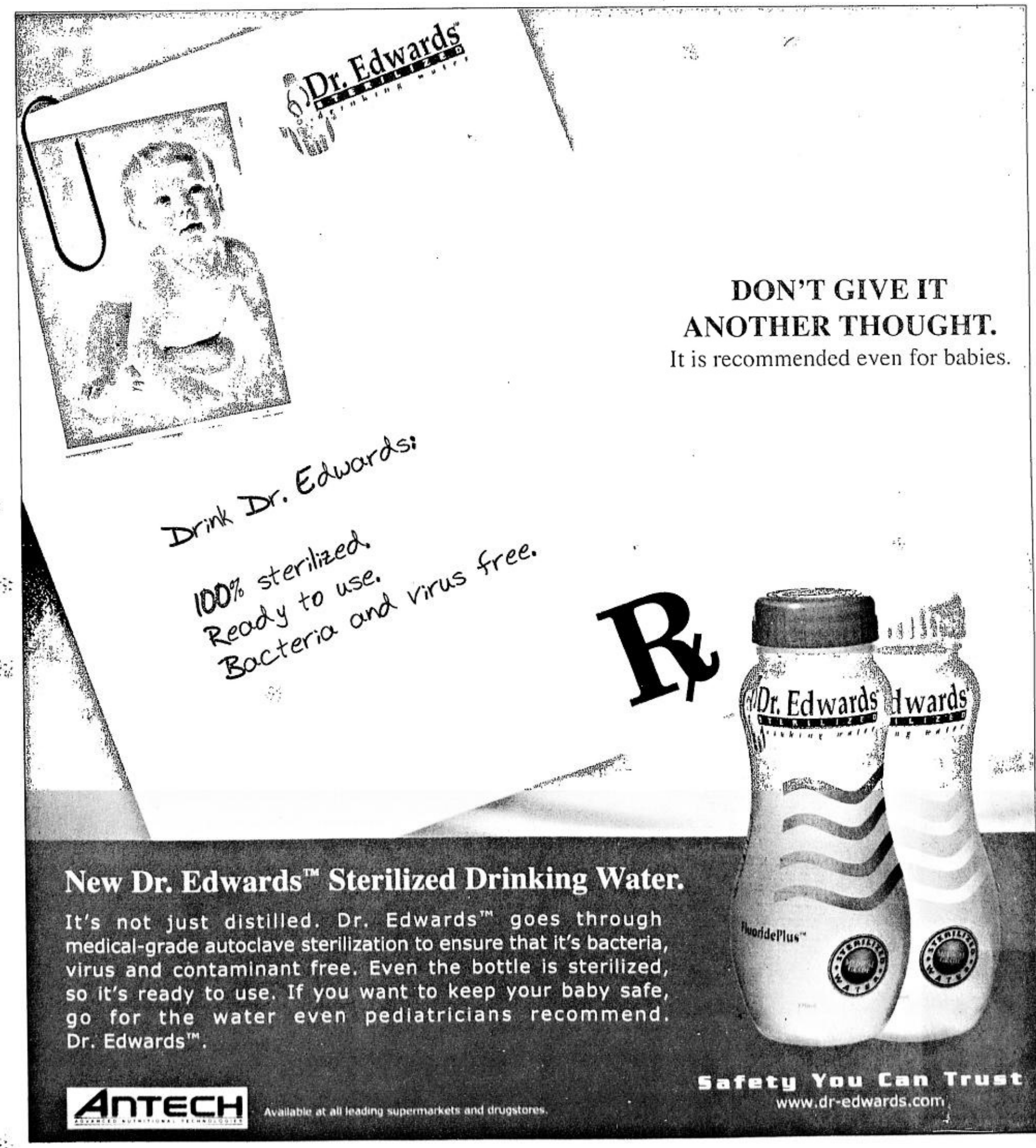
"Thank you to all. And may the blessings of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and your family," said the solicitation letter.

Call Ditas Macabuhay at 0919-665-2158, Bless Manalo at 0916-5806036, Dennis Eroa at 0917-2783829 or the Holy Trinity Parish at (047) 2242446. Funds can also be deposited at account 00-000-004102-5, account Blessilda S. Manalo and Rodita Macabuhay (Olongapo LBC Bank.

Santo Sepulcro fiesta

The Parish of San Fernando de Dilao in Paco will celebrate the feast of the Santo Sepulcro today with a fiesta Mass at 7 a.m. by Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales.

The theme is "Todong Buhay Gusto Mo; Galaw ni Kristo Sundan Mo."



JOB Market

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2004
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PHILIPPINE DAILY **INQUIRER**
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DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

JOBMARKET has two sections today

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Sarah Meier

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Requirements: Willing to work in Eastwood/Alabang • Resident of the Philippines • Written & Spoken English Skills
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We advance the quality of life of individuals and organizations by delivering the SOLUTIONS to their communications-based needs. We provide quality and personalized service that exceeds our customers' needs and expectations. We are driven by a culture of excellence and innovation, enabled by best-in-market talent and superior operating effectiveness and flexibility.

Credit Specialist (Code:FIN-CS)

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Documentation of PPM
- Review of Bill Follow-up reports / accounts
- Top account analysis

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree Accountancy.
- Preferably a CPA (Certified Public Accountant)
- Preferably with at least 2 years working experience from an auditing firm
- With experience in procedure and policy documentation
- Required skill(s): Knowledge in basic computer, articulate, have good communication skills.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mandaluyong.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Fresh graduates/Entry level applicants are encouraged to apply.

Fraud and Risk Specialist (Code: FIN-FRS)

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Executes diagnostic verification processes concerning disputed billed usage and doubtful transactions where fraud indicators can also be obtained
- Complies with the service level standards in doing the analysis and investigation of all endorsed reports / cases.
- Identifies realistic fraud/abuse preventive measures for all the corresponding systems and business process models.
- Reviews/checks the accuracy and validity data/information reflected in the fraud alerts investigation reports.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree, preferably a graduate of ECE.
- With at least 6 months working experience
- Preferably with work exposure on field/network quality control, fraud, and risk management, or revenue/quality assurance.
- Required skill(s): Knowledge in basic computer, articulate, have good communication skills, analysis and investigative skills.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mandaluyong.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.

Accountants / Sr. Accountants (Code: FIN – A)

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- With experience in review of accounting systems, processes and internal controls, preparation of bank reconciliation, financial reports, cash flows and general accounting reports, budget preparation and financial reviews, audit and inventory management, bills processing and credit and collection

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree Accountancy.
- Preferably a CPA (Certified Public Accountant)
- For Accountants, with at least 2 years working experience
- For Sr. Accountants, with at least 4 years working experience in the same level
- Required skill(s): Knowledge in basic computer, articulate, have good communication skills.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mandaluyong.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Certified Public Accountant
- Proficient in MS Office applications
- Knowledge in SAP is an advantage
- Strong analytic, communication and interpersonal skills
- Willing to extend working hours if necessary and willing to start immediately
- Self-motivated, diligent, results-oriented

Cashier (Code: Cashier)

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Acceptance of collections, issuance of ORs
- Performs customer service
- Preparation of collection reports and other office memos
- Handling cash payments
- Handling of prepaid stocks and transactions
- Provide information to subscribers regarding services

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Finance/Accountancy/Banking, Commerce or equivalent.
- At least 2 year(s) of working experience in the field of cashiering and tellering
- Customer service oriented
- Willing to be assigned and/ or be transferred to any business centers due to the operational business requirements of the company
- Applicants must be willing to work in NCR, South Luzon, North Luzon
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status
- Height requirements: Female at least 5'3, Male 5'7
- Full-Time positions available.

Technical Helpdesk (Code: CS – Helpdesk)

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Receive and responds to customer concerns on their service, including trouble, complaint and other technical difficulty encountered with the service
- Track and report customer cases/ complaints, and status of resolution
- Receive and process customer requests for specific actions
- Maintain a detailed understanding of the end-to-end service flow process (from order taking to billing and maintenance)
- Respond to general inquiries about Innove and its products/ services
- Closely coordinate with Network Operations to keep updated with status of customer's circuit or account

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field
- At least 1 year of working experience in customer care, order handling, and/ or related functions gained from reputable customer interaction center/s
- Experience in 24x7 technical helpdesk operations
- Experience in using customer care application systems
- Knowledge in internet and telecommunications technology
- Experience in working in (and thus possesses a good understanding of) data telecommunications technology including service & supporting network, circuits and related elements
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status

Account Managers for SME Batangas & Bicol (Code: AM)

- Graduates of any four-year course preferably Business, Marketing or Information Technology.
- At least two years experience in Corporate Sales.
- Has self-confidence and very pleasing personality.
- Must be able to explain features & benefits of the Company's products/services.
- Has ability to develop and maintain relationships with customers within his territory.
- Has strong drive to meet aggressive Sales Targets.
- Capable of delivering sales/technical presentations.
- With good oral and written communication skills.
- Must know how to drive and holder of professional driver's license.
- Has strong customer focus, high tolerance for stress, initiative to learn, enthusiasm and patience in handling inquiries and concerns, with strong attention to details, pleasant disposition and excellent judgmental skills.

Consultant for Core Network Planning (Code: CNP)

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Will design / plan the evolution of Core from Switch to IP Centric Network
- Graduate of ECE (licensed)
- At least 5 years work experience in data network planning and design on both service provider and enterprise network
- With understanding of the following: IP numbering plan design and management; IP routing protocols; QoS implementation; IP traffic engineering and IP network security design
- With knowledge on network planning and design of mobile network's core components (MSC, HLR, IN, SMSC)

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Certifications in CCDP or CCNP, an advantage
- Excellent planning and organizing skills
- Above Average technical writing and presentation skills
- Excellent research skills
- Knowledgeable in review / interpretation of business plan / cases
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mandaluyong
- Full-Time position available

Database Administrator (Code: ISG / DCO)

REQUIREMENTS:
- Administration of the system databases and its application interfaces
- Monitoring of systems' availability, performance and capacity
- Compliance standards and SLA
- Support to 24x7 operations

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Graduate of any IT course
- At least 2 years experience in an IT operations preferably in the Telco environment
- Experience in HP-UX, Sybase, Oracle and NT Applications, an advantage
- Experience in software development life cycle and project management
- Knowledgeable in C/C++, PERL, UNIX shell script, PL/SQL, Power Builder, Relational databases
- Strong business and user orientation
- Good communication and presentation skills
- Good interpersonal skills
- Above average knowledge in Software Development Life standards and practices
- Must be willing to work on extended hours / shifting
- Must be willing to work in Mandaluyong
- Full-Time position available

Head for VAS Section (Code: ISG - VAS)

REQUIREMENTS:
- Leads the team in implementing systems
- Acts as a technical project manager for major projects
- Validates technical architecture of major projects
- Ensures team and project's compliance with the SDLC processes and standards

QUALIFICATIONS:
- A graduate of Computer / Math or equivalent courses
- Must have at least 4 years experience as a Project Manager in Systems Development
- Knowledge in different B2B, B2C business model, an advantage
- With good project management skills and competencies
- Excellent written and oral communication
- With working knowledge on JAVA, Unix and web service technologies
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mandaluyong

Network Security Specialist (Code: WNO:NSQA)

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Review continuous process improvement activities
- Assess Network's risks and security concerns

QUALIFICATIONS:
- BS ECE graduate (licensed)
- Working knowledge on GSM Switching, Nokia Switches and BSS
- Experienced in Unix Environment
- Proficient in MS Office and Unix
- Excellent decision - making skills
- Team player
- Can work under pressure
- Above Average communication skills (written and oral)

Web Developer / Programmer (Code: ISG-WD)

- In charge of programming and system analysis
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Computer Science/Information Technology or equivalent.
- Must have working knowledge in ASP, ASP.NET, Web Development and Relational Databases
- Must possess strong analytical and problem solving skills
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mandaluyong.
- Full-Time positions available.

Analysts / Programmers (Code: ISG-A/P)

- A graduate of Computer Science or any computer - related course (Ateneo, UP & La Salle only). Fresh grads and experienced candidates
- Minimum of 2 years working knowledge on J2EE / Java Programming
- Proficient in J2EE / Java Programming, Web design / Development, Bea web logic application server
- Knowledge in Unix, Shell Script programming, Sybase, Oracle RDBMS, Crystal reports,
- Business objects

IP Experts (Code: WNTG:IP Experts)

- Prepares engineering plans for the implementation of the IP Network
- Dimensions the IP network capacity and capability to meet the near term & long term IP network development stages
- Controls and monitors the IP implementation
- Integrates the IP backbone in the transmission network
- With at least 1 year experience in IP Networking, Design and Engineering
- With experience in advance router configuration, protocols (MPLS, FR/ATM, Ethernet, OSI Layers), LAN Security
- Preferably a Certified Networking Professional (eg. CCNA, CCNP)
- Knowledgeable in basic transmission engineering concepts
- Knowledgeable in the latest applicable technologies and trends
- College Graduate, preferably BS ECE or any related course

Kindly send your resumé, 2x2 picture and photocopy of transcript to (please indicate the position code):

Staffing Operations Department
3F GLOBE Telecom Plaza I
Mandaluyong City

or apply online at

www.globe.com.ph

ET ENTER
ENTER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES (EIP) is a subsidiary of

MAGIC SING

ENTER TECH CO., LTD. in SEOUL, KOREA. (The manufacturer of the wonderful innovation "Magic Sing" Portable Video Karaoke Microphone).

We are looking for the following personnel:

MIDI DEVELOPER

- **Qualifications**
  (1) Male or Female, no age limit
  (2) At least 2 years of experience in making MIDI files
  (3) At least high school graduate
  * Preferably, those who have experiences in developing Karaoke MIDI files.
- **Requirements**
  (1) Resumé
  (2) 1-2 midi files developed by himself or herself.
- **Interview Period**
  August 23, 2004 - August 27, 2004 (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

(1) Female, 22-25 years old; Accounting graduate
(2) At least 11/2 years of experience in general accounting; preferably those who have knowledge in BIR, SSS, PHIC
(3) Computer proficient, can work under pressure
(4) Preferably a Born-Again Christian
- Send your resumé at the address below
- Interview period: August 24-27, 2004 (1:30 PM to 5:00 PM)

If you are interested, visit our office at:

Rm. 402 Richbelt Tower, #17 Annapolis St.,
Greenhills, San Juan City
or call us at 721-8874 or 721-8857 and look for Lalaine.

A well-established PHARMACEUTICAL and COSMETICS Company is in need of applicants who will be part of their growing organization:

MARKET DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
- At least 2 years sales experience and 3 years of brand management experience
- Highly familiar with Distributorship Programs for fast-moving consumer products
- Strong in "people skills" (ability to listen and lead)
- Articulate in both oral and written communication
- Results-oriented (willing to work extended hours and travel extensively)

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT
- Single
- with at least 3 years experience
- B.S. Psychology Graduate
- Highly motivated
- Hard working with minimal supervision
- Articulate in both oral and written communication
- Computer literate (esp. Microsoft Office)

PURCHASING CLERK
- Female
- Single
- 21-26 years old
- Highly motivated
- Hard working with minimal supervision
- Articulate in both oral and written communication
- Computer literate (esp. Microsoft Office)

MARKETING / SALES CLERK
- Female
- Single
- 21-27 years old
- Customer service oriented
- Highly motivated
- Hard working with minimal supervision
- Articulate in both oral and written communication
- Computer literate (esp. Microsoft Office)

Interested and qualified applicants may e-mail, bring or send their comprehensive resumés to:
2205-A West Tower,
Philippine Stock Exchange Center Bldg.
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
E-MAIL: hrd@rhizalab.com

SMART, QUICK-WITTED TRAVEL WARRIORS, JOIN US!

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HEAD, DOMESTIC TRAVEL
- At least 4 years handling domestic travel in the Philippines
- Experience in packaging local tours
- Good oral and written communication skill

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- Young, dynamic and proactive individuals
- Experience in sales/marketing
- College degree required

TRAVEL CONSULTANTS
- With experience in IATA/non-IATA agency required
- Excellent communication skills
- Knowledge in computer reservation system required

SENIOR ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATE
- Accounting graduate, preferably a CPA
- With at least 3 years supervisory experience in general/ financial accounting
- Good understanding of accounting policies and general accounting concepts and the applications thereof
- Proficient in MS Office applications

ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATE
- Accounting graduate with at least one year experience in general/financial accounting
- Proficient in MS Office applications
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Analytical, detailed oriented, adaptable and highly responsible

EXCELLENT BENEFITS
Exposure to global company operations * Management development and Training opportunities * Industry standard compensation * Profit incentive sharing * Rice subsidy * Hospitalization plan * Travel benefits

SEND RESUMÉ TO:

PHILSCAN TRAVEL & TOURS INC.
2nd Floor, G & A Building, 2303,
Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Makati City

Or E-mail to: info@philscantravel.com

HIRING : PRODUCTION MANAGERS AND PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS
for seafood export processing plant

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Minimum 1 year work experience in seafood industry, preferably with tuna fish from reputable processing & export companies.
- Experience in frozen tuna seafood export processing, skilled with hands-on knowledge on cutting & production operations
- Experience in tasteless wood smoke processing techniques
- Good interpersonal relations
- Computer skills an advantage
- Willing to travel and be deployed on assignments

❑ **Applicants from General Santos City, Davao City, all seafood producing regions, including Manila, are welcome.** Interview schedules & venues for shortlisted candidates will be advised at a later date and will be conducted at their respective provinces.
❑ Interested parties can send their applications with resumé/ biodata and passport size photos by post or via e-mail to IanHFC:

Post : P.O. Box 2108
Q.C. Central Post Office
1161 Q.C. Philippines
E-mail : sendapplications@yahoo.com

The **EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA** is looking for an

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Qualifications

Essential: Female, under 40, at least 3 years experience as an assistant/secretary to a high-level officer, a degree from a reputable university, a proficient speech writer, fluent in English.

Preferred: Work experience gained from government offices or embassies and willingness to work long hours.

Please send your photo and a personal history i.e. a creative narration of your background, education, work experience and skills not later than ***27 August 2004.***

Administrative Section
10/F Pacific Star Building, Makati Ave, Makati City
Tel. number: (02) 811-6139 to 44; Fax number: (02) 811-6148

URGENTLY NEEDED

PROJECT MANAGER FOR CHRISTIAN COUNSELING MINISTRY
FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A degree holder in psychology and/or counseling or at least 5 years hands-on experience in counseling, and has a pastoral heart; at least 35 years old, evangelical Christian, fluent in written and oral English, excellent public speaking skills, has good working knowledge of MS Office programs, multi-skilled an excellent networker and team player. Must be willing to travel. Email résumé to crisfrm2004@yahoo.com or fax to 6872260

ISO-certified Multi-national Company engage in manufacturing various housing fixtures, committed to quality service and customer satisfaction. Awarded as Top Sectoral Export Performance Citation for Furniture Category are in need of the following personnel.

Assistant Supervisor

- Male/Female at least 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Architecture or any Engineering course
- With at least 6 months of supervisory work experience
- Knowledge in machine operation for wooden products
- Proficient in windows based programs
- Good inter-personal relationship
- Aggressive, analytical and assertive

Truck Head Driver

(urgent hiring)

- Male at least 30 up to 40 years of age
- High School or Vocational Course (related in auto mechanic)
- Experience in Driving Truck Head
- Skills in Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- With professional Driver's License (R Code-6 & 3, 2, 1)

Forklift Operator

(urgent hiring)

- At least Vocational Course Graduates
- Male between 20-35 years old
- With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- With knowledge in forklift repair and maintenance
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character

Company Nurse

- Female between 21-27 years old
- Graduate of BS Nursing
- Experienced in Industrial setting is an advantage
- People oriented and can work on extended hours

Forklift Mechanic

(urgent hiring)

- Male between 20-35 years old
- Must be an Auto-Diesel Mechanic graduate
- With experience in motor pool is an advantage
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character
- Fresh graduate are welcome to apply

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You can mail or hand carry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address.

For inquiries, call telephone no. (046) 437-0849 to 51. Look for Ronalyn Estorninos or Mr. Joel Tecson or you can e-mail your resumé at hrd_scad@pacific.net.ph

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ANZCHAM

AUSTRALIAN - NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2004 BUSINESS FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWSHIP FOR A YOUNG FILIPINO ACHIEVER IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (ANZCHAM) is offering an Agricultural Fellowship to a deserving young Filipino wishing to further his/her studies in this field. The Fellowship is an initiative of ANZCHAM and funded by the various activities of the Chamber.

The Fellow will receive a travel grant to undertake a short-term study program (2 to 3 weeks) intended to strengthen career development and undergo specialist training not available locally. An important objective of the Program is to foster the development of business skills in agriculture and for the expertise gained to be passed on to Regions or areas in need in the Philippines.

Applications for the 2004 ANZCHAM Business Fellowship are invited from:

- Individuals in the workforce who show potential for further development; and
- Postgraduate research degree students nearing the completion of their studies.

Short courses being offered in the Business Fellowship Programme at the University of Queensland are the following:

a) Industry Plant Protection
b) Plant Tissue Culture Techniques and Nursery Management
c) Apiary Production

The chosen candidate must be ready to depart either in October, November or December 2004.

Applications must include: bio-data (indicate if you have a valid passport), study proposal (15 pages max) and selected course (choose only 1 course) and should be sent to:

Australian- New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (Philippines), Inc.
7th Floor Oakwood Premier, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City

All applications must be received on or before Friday, 3 September 2004

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- ☐ Male/Female
- ☐ 3 years minimum experience
- ☐ Sufficient skills in accounting supervision, payroll Preparation, Tax reporting

Submit Resumé to:

PHIL. SEORA INC.
Unit 42 Legaspi Suites, 178 Salcedo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 811-0502 or 811-0504
E-mail address roblaguardia@yahoo.com

Do you want to be identified with a large and well-respected conglomerate?
Do you want to be a part of a team of young & aggressive professionals in charting the direction of a stable and fast-growing Bank?
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RobinsonsBank
A Savings Bank

*A member of the highly diversified conglomerate, JG Summit Holdings Corp., **Robinsons Bank** is in urgent need of young professionals to fit the following key positions:*

Executive Secretary
- ✔ Between 23 – 25 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ With at least 2 yrs. experience
- ✔ With good administrative & office mgn't. skills
- ✔ With good interpersonal skills
- ✔ Computer literate; Microsoft Word & Excel & Power Point

Consumer Lending Head
- ✔ Between 30 - 35 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business Related course
- ✔ With adequate experience in account management of real estate, auto, and personal loans

Account Officer
(For Commercial/Consumer Lending)
- ✔ Between 25 – 35 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ With at least 2 yrs. experience as Account Officer for Commercial and Consumer Loans

Marketing Officer Asset & Liabilities
(For Metro Manila, Cebu-Mandaue, Iloilo, Davao, San Fernando, Baguio & Naga
- ✔ Between 25 - 35 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ With strong marketing background preferably in Banking or related fields
- ✔ Familiar with solicitation of deposit and auto loan accounts

Applicants for the above positions must be:
- College Graduate
- Flexible
- Computer literate
- With good oral & written comm. skills
- With pleasing personality

Account Assistant
(For Commercial/Consumer Lending)
- ✔ Between 20 – 25 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ With at least 1 yr. experience as Account Assistant for Commercial or Consumer Loans

Audit Assistant
- ✔ Between 20 - 25 years old
- ✔ Graduate of Accounting; CPA
- ✔ With Audit experience
- ✔ Must be analytical.

Systems Programmer
- ✔ Graduate of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, ECE or related courses
- ✔ With at least 4 - 5 yrs. Programming exp. in the field of Banking & Finance
- ✔ AS400/RPG400 platform and language w/ knowledge on performance tuning on the different O/S
- ✔ Silverlake SIBS know-how is an advantage
- ✔ Willing to be assigned on a night shift

I.T. Auditor
- ✔ Between 22 - 30 years old
- ✔ Graduate of Accounting; CPA
- ✔ With at least 1 year experience in systems
- ✔ Audit gained from an Audit Firm or Banks
- ✔ Must be highly analytical

CI/Appraiser
- ✔ Between 25-30 years old
- ✔ Civil Engineer
- ✔ Minimum 2yrs. appraisal experience in Real Estate & Auto
- ✔ Knowledgeable in REM Documentation
- ✔ Can relate with government agencies

Branch Manager
(For Dasmariñas/Metro Manila)
- ✔ Between 30 – 35 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ At least 2 yrs. Marketing experience & sufficient knowledge of branch operations

Customer Sales Asst./Teller
(For Metro Manila, Dasmariñas, San Pablo, Bacolod & Mandaue Cebu)
- ✔ Between 20 - 25 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ Experience in tellering / new accounts is an advantage

Sales & Service Officer
(For Metro Manila/Pool)
- ✔ Between 25 – 30 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ CPA an advantage
- ✔ 3 to 5 years experience in new accounts, tellering, bookeeping, and supervision

Lawyer
- ✔ Member in Good Standing of Phil. Bar
- ✔ Excellent in written & oral comm. skills
- ✔ Knowledgeable in foreclosure & related matters
- ✔ Banking experience is an advantage.

Collector
(For Northern Luzon)
- ✔ Male; Between 25 – 35 years old
- ✔ College Graduate
- ✔ With at least 3 yrs. experience in Collection preferably on Auto Loan accounts
- ✔ Willing to be based in Baguio or Dagupan

Interested applicants may submit their Letter of Application, Resume, & Transcript of Records to:

ROBINSONS SAVINGS BANK - HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP
Units 101 & 201 Continental Court Condominium,
47 Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan
Fax no. (632) 7212336 • Email: recruitment@robinsonsbank.com.ph
Only qualified applicants shall be notified.

A JG Summit Company

We work hard...We play hard!

wE 9Ot 9AmE!

- Are you familiar with various online/network or console games particularly RPG and virtual games?
- Are you proficient in basic internet and PC applications?
- Do you have a high level of customer service orientation?
- Do you have excellent communication skills in English, both written and oral?
- Are you a team player, patient and highly flexible? Are you willing to work the graveyard shift?

Wanna have fun while working? We have the most exciting technical support programs that ever hit Manila's shores! Come and be a PIONEER GAMER!

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- Assistant Operations Managers
- Team Captains
- Trainers
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25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center
Pasig City, 1600
Trunkline: 638.9440
Facsimile: 638.9445
OPEN HOUSE: Monday-Friday, 10AM-6PM
Walk-ins will be immediately interviewed.
Or submit your resume to:
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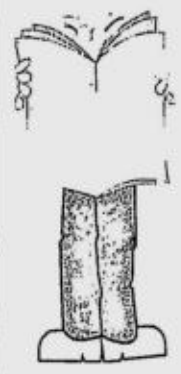

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Department of Labor and Employment

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for high caliber personnel willing to be employed in TACLOBAN CITY

Position : **DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR III (SG-27)**

Designation : Maritime Training Officer

Qualification requirements:

Education : Bachelor's Degree
Experience : 3 years supervisory experience, preferably maritime-related
Training : None required
Eligibility : CES/Merchant Marine Officer with management-level license

(Preferred applicants are management-level merchant marine officers with sufficient supervisory experience)

Position : **PROFESSORS (SG-24)**
ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS (SG-19)
ASSISTANT PROFESSORS (SG-15)

Qualification requirements:

Education : BS Marine Transportation/Marine Engineering or its equivalent
License : Mgt-level merchant marine officers or operational level merchant marine officers with experience onboard tankers
Training : Preferably with IMO Model Course 6.09 & 3.12 Certificates & Certificate of Competency
Experience : Sea experience on license

Submit applications to Eufemia M. Balangbang,
HRM Section Head, NMP Cabalawan, Tacloban City
Tel. Numbers: (053) 321-3356 or 321-3352
Fax: (053) 325-5160; E-mail: nmptac@philwebinc.com

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We are a rapidly growing pharmaceutical company, with well-accepted portfolio of ethical pharmaceutical brands that consistently surpass industry growth standards. Our highly professional operations are competitive and respected. Our structure is conducive for competent individuals who aim for faster career advancement in the mainstream pharma market.

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PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

Medical Sales Position responsible for ethical promotions to doctors and management of territorial business for selected MPPI products in designated expansion areas namely; Cebu, Bohol & Dumaguete, Bacolod, Iloilo, Leyte & Samar, Cagayan de Oro & Iligan, Ozamis & Pagadian, Zamboanga, Cotabato

Basic Qualifications:

- Male/Female not over 35 years old with good interpersonal skills
- AB or BS degree holder from reputable college/university with consistent and above-average academic record *(Nursing Graduates and/or those with job prospects abroad need not apply)*
- Eloquent and highly sensible in interpersonal communications
- Disciplined lifestyle and competitive, *(track record of actual past achievement, a plus factor)*
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

Please come in business attire and see us with your Application Letter/Resumé with 2x2 picture and photocopy of Transcript of Records at the following processing points:

Manila Applicants	:	Aug. 18 at MPPI Bldg., 600 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Cebu	:	Aug. 16 – 17 at Cebu Midtown Hotel
Cagayan de Oro	:	Aug. 18 – 20 at Dynasty Hotel
Iloilo	:	Aug. 23 – 24 at Sarabia Manor Hotel
Davao	:	Aug. 25 – 27 at Apo View Hotel

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Then bring your:

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- **FREE:** NCLEX Review sessions; review materials; use of HCCA's modern library & computer lab; and DVD,VCD, VHS tape and book loans for home study
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The **POEA Government Placement Branch**, Window I Ground Floor Left Wing, Blas F. Ople Bldg (formerly POEA Bldg.) EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City (See **Ms. Blenda, Project Officer** or call **722-1174/75**) or through your local POEA office

POEA Application Forms may also be obtained at
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URGENTLY NEEDED:

RADIOGRAPHERS - ALL SPECIALTIES

EXPERIENCED REQUIRED: Two (2) years of hospital radiology experience required. Registration in radiography with the American Registry Radiologic Technologists or Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists is required or equivalent.

EDUCATION: Graduation from a professional program in Radiologic Technology/ Radiologic Sciences required.

ANESTHESIA TECHNICIANS (3)

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED: Three (3) years of related experience is required.

EDUCATION: High School and successful completion of a formal two (2) years training program in Anesthesiology, Surgical Technology or a related medical field such as Respiratory Therapy or Nursing is required.

CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGISTS (3)
(Invasive and Non-Invasive)

EXPERIENCED REQUIRED: Four (4) years of related experience in the assigned area. Basic computer skills.

EDUCATION: Completion of accredited program in cardiovascular technology, cardiac ultrasound technology, or related health care field after High School. Registration with the American Society of Cardiovascular Professionals or country-of-origin equivalent.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS (7)

EXPERIENCED REQUIRED: Two (2) years of Clinical Laboratory experience consistent with KFSH standards as a Medical Technologist in the assigned discipline Registration as a Medical Technologist, or Clinical Laboratory Specialist with the American Society of Clinical Pathologists on equivalent body in country of origin is required.

NEUROPHYSIOLOGY TECHNOLOGISTS

With relevant experience in the field.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS: must PERSONALLY register and submit detailed resumé with job descriptions, certificates of employment/training, diploma and transcript of records, board license/certificate, valid PRC card, two (2) letters of reference from previous/current supervisor. No Objection Certificate (for ex-Saudi), passport copy (if available) and 1 pc. Passport size picture, between 8-4 PM or the nearest POEA Regional Extension Unit, for the issuance of KFSH Application Form and Skills Checklist.

REPRESENTATIVES OF KFSH-RIYADH WILL CONDUCT INTERVIEW ON SEPTEMBER 6, 7 & 8, 2004.

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
MANPOWER REGISTRY DIVISION, WINDOW I
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(formerly POEA Bldg.) Left Wing Lobby
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City

NOTE. MAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.
Arrange in a cream folder all xerox copies chronologically in accordance with the above-mentioned requirements. Bring original documents arranged in similar manner for verification.

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Essential:

Minimum of 3 years experience in

- litigation
- general corporate
- commercial
- tax and/or
- intellectual property law practice

COMPENSATION OPEN DEPENDING ON QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Preferred:
Graduates of the University of the Philippines,
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All applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

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HEAD TECHNICIAN

- Male, 28-35 years old
- Graduate of Mechanical, Electrical Engineering
- At least two (2) years relevant work experience as supervisor dealing with mechanical and electrical works. Must have knowledge in motor rewinding and spare parts fabrication
- Responsible in the maintenance and repair of the company's service equipment to ensure their efficient operation
- Team player and attentive to details
- Computer literate and must know how to drive

TRAINING COORDINATOR

- Male/Female, 28-35 years old
- Graduate of Behavioral Science, Education, Engineering or any related courses
- At least 2-3 years experience as Training Officer
- Skilled in designing of training modules and familiar with research works
- Responsible, trustworthy, can work well under pressure, Highly analytical and attentive to details
- Strong Supervisory and interpersonal skills
- Computer literate

AREA COORDINATOR – STA. ROSA, LAGUNA

- Male/Female, 27-30 years old
- College graduate; preferably business related courses
- At least two (2) years experience in service-oriented company
- Strong leadership and interpersonal skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Computer literate
- Preferably with experience in a Janitorial Service company or related operations

SALES CLERK – STA. ROSA, LAGUNA

- Female, 21-25 years old
- Graduate of Marketing or related business course
- Can prepare management reports
- People-oriented with strong interpersonal skills
- Proficient in oral and written communications
- Computer literate

Successful candidate can expect a very attractive compensation and benefit package.

Please mail comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 ID photos and other credentials to:

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Personnel Department
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E-mail: olcontar_luzro@cityservicecorp.com

GRAPHIC ARTIST
Male/Female, 20-24 y.o. Fresh grad. are accepted; must be proficient in Adobe Photoshop & Corel Draw & free-hand drawing

OPERATIONS ASSISTANTS
Male 20-29 y.o. physically fit, with drivers license; preferably College level

BUSINESS DEVT. MANAGER
Male/ Female; 25-30 y.o.; Preferebly with experience in franchising; Proficient in written and oral communications

FRANCHISE CONSULTANTS
Male/Female, 20-35 y.o., with experience in Sales Insurance, Car, & Real Estate Agent is an advantage

ON-THE-JOB TRAINEES (OJTs)
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Please bring your resume with 2x2 picture to:

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✦equipment	✦basic knowledge of chemical engineering is a must
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✦raceway	✦computer literate (ms word & ms excel)
✦isometric	✦process simulation (PRO-II)
✦creating drawing	✦hydraulics calculation for line and equipment sizing
✦clash check (interference check)	✦P&ID development (not CAD drafting work)
✦PDS default quality check function	
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Safety Engineer	- with ARAMCO experience
QA/QC Welding Inspector	- with NDT level II (UT,RT,PT,VT) & AWS certification
Piping	- Engineer, Supervisor & QA/QC Inspector
Machinery/ Rotating/ HVAC	- Engineer, Supervisor & QA/QC Inspector
Electrical/ Instrumentation	- Engineer, Supervisor & QA/QC Inspector
Civil/ Structural/ Building	- Engineer, Supervisor & QA/QC Inspector
Painting/ Insulation/ Refractory	- Engineer, Supervisor & QA/QC Inspector
Mechanical Equipment Erection	- Engineer, Supervisor & QA/QC Inspector

Minimum of five (5) years experience in Power Plant, Industrial, Refinery & Petrochemical Plant construction.

For qualified applicants, please submit/ mail your resume' with recent 2x2 picture not later than August 27, 2004 at the following ddresses:

Office Address : Pioneer Highlands Tower 2, Upper Ground Unit 3 Commercial Center Pioneer corner Madison Streets Mandaluyong City 1554 Philippines
1E-Mail Address : omd_central@agp.com.ph

For Manpower Pooling Only, Previous applicants need not apply, No Placement Fee, No Medical Fee
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We are a team of floral and lifestyle experts passionately committed to the vision of elevating humanity's appreciation of floral artistry and other works of art that influence lifestyle. We are currently in need of highly competent and motivated professionals who will help us in realizing our company's mission and vision.

Marketing Assistants (5)
- Male / Female between 21 – 30 years old
- Graduate of Mass Communication, Marketing or related course
- With 1-2 years experience in sales
- Possesses excellent conversational English skills and keen listening skills
- Able to establish rapport with clients and has excellent negotiation skills
- Must be willing to travel
- Exhibits strong interpersonal skills and highly flexible
- Very confident, enthusiastic, assertive and self-motivated
- Willing to work on Sundays and Holidays

Floral Artist
- Male
- College graduate
- Highly creative
- Experience in the same or related industry preferred
- Preferably single but the highly qualified married ones will be considered
- Willing to work long hours

Previous applicants need not apply.
Come for an interview every Monday - Friday from 2:00 – 6:00 pm only and bring your resume with 2 x 2 colored picture at 3F The Podium Mall # 18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

KOBOLD

In the scope of our international expansion, we are currently looking for a professional who will represent us in the Philippines, based in Metro Manila.

MARKETING ENGINEER or TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

His Tasks
- build-up a distributor network, search for new distributors, train the distributors and support them in making offers, visit end customers, respond to all technical and commercial issues

His Profile
- technical background (experienced technician in electro-mechanics) or engineer with good knowledge of automation
- minimum sales experience of 4 to 5 years in the instrumentation market with similar products (such as flow meters, level measurement, etc)
- proficiency in written and spoken English
- age range: 28 to 40
- be willing to travel frequently in his territory
- be willing to work under a 'self-employment' status
- should be residing in Metro Manila.

We offer
- the integration and support of an international group, a leading company in instrumentation
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- competitive remuneration + commission + reimbursement of all professional expenses
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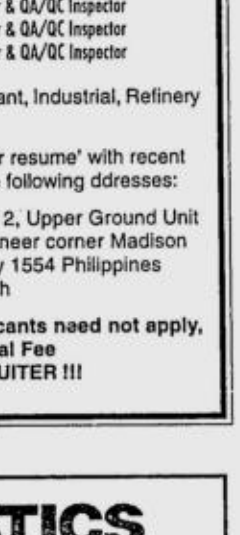

- Bachelor's Degree Holder. Master's degree is an advantage
- Competitive with ability, drive and desire to deliver outstanding results from both a revenue and profitability perspective;
- Intellectually creative
- With a proven ability to motivate and develop a cohesive, team-oriented sales and marketing group
- Very strong management and leadership skills
- Result-oriented
- With strong interpersonal skills
- With strong business sense and maturity; entrepreneurial, maximizes the use of relatively limited resources by utilizing creativity, ingenuity and hands-on implementation;
- Good communication skills, both oral and written
- Customer-focused
- With an up-to-date knowledge of current trends and emerging marketing initiatives

COURSE CONSULTANTS

- Graduate of any 4-yr course
- Good communication skills, both oral and written
- Willing to do sales and marketing activities
- 20-28 years old

Interested parties may hand carry their resume to 3/F Metrobank Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Cor Wilson St. (Across Unimart) Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.
Tel. 722-6772 to 74 | E-mail rkhosking@informatics-greenhills.com

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- Engineering graduate is an advantage
- At least 2 years experience in marketing
- Excellent in oral and written English
- Computer literate
- Aggressive with strong persuasive skill

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- ☑ HRM/HRD graduates preferred
- ☑ 18 to 35 years of age

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- Male/Female, not older than 30 years old
- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Studies/Administation/ Management or any related courses
- With at least four (4) years experience working with a franchising/ fast food company
- Must be willing to work out-of-town if needed during inspection and meetings
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- Willing to work long hours

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Tel. Nos. 374-7149 to 51 and look for
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Personnel and Administrative Manager

- Female, between 30-45 years old; pleasing personality
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resource Management
- At least five (5) years of Human Resource Management experience in a managerial capacity
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must have strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must be people-oriented and can deal well with all levels in the organization
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUME, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

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Philippine Daily Inquirer Building
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Makati City

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

THE WORLD BANK

Requires A
Social Development, Participation and Civil Society Specialist

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) seeks a candidate with strong operational experience in community-driven development (CDD), social accountability and civil society engagement. The position will be an **Extended Term Consultant (ETC) appointment** for one year renewable for a second year based on satisfactory performance and on the mutual agreement of the Bank and the Consultant. It will be subject to local recruitment and offers an opportunity to work on development challenges facing the Philippines in a global development organization. Based in Manila, the selected candidate is expected to travel frequently within the country.

The successful candidate will work in the World Bank Office Manila (WBOM), and will directly report to the Social Sector Coordinator, Environment and Social Development Unit, WBOM.

Duties and Responsibilities
He/She will have the following major duties and responsibilities:

- **Mainstreaming Stakeholder Participation and Civil Society Engagement.** Implement the empowerment objective of the Country Assistance Strategy by mainstreaming participation, especially of the poor and civil society, in Bank-financed projects, analytical work and policy dialogue; screen projects in the pipeline to ensure that participatory approaches are integrated in design of investment operations; track ongoing projects to ensure that participatory approaches are being implemented; and mobilize and manage resources for work on CDD, social accountability and civic engagement.
- **Supporting Project Development and Implementation.** Participate in cross-sectoral task teams to design, supervise and evaluate projects which pay attention to social dimensions of development; assist task teams in identifying and working with appropriate civil society partners for project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Act as team leader, when assigned, on projects related to CDD and social accountability.
- **Enhancing Knowledge and Capacities.** Document and/or disseminate good practices; conduct knowledge management activities to enhance civil society's understanding of the Bank's operations and policies; and design and support capacity building efforts for development partners. Participate in the assessment of NGOs applying as Bank Implementing Agencies. Administer the Small Grants Program.
- **Assisting the ES unit in Social Safeguards Work.** Under the guidance of the Operations Officer (Social Safeguards), WBOM, assist the unit in cross-support work on social safeguards to task teams from the Rural Development, Infrastructure/Transport/ Energy/Urban Development and Human Development sectors, especially for projects that are already under implementation.

Selection Criteria

- Master's degree or higher in anthropology, sociology or other relevant social science.
- Strong operational background and analytical skills, with at least 7 years of relevant professional experience. Hands-on work in designing, managing and evaluating CDD and Social Accountability projects is desirable.
- Working knowledge of relevant policies, procedures, practices, and programs in the Philippines.
- Effective oral and written communication skills in English and Tagalog, and proficient computer skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to work in multi-disciplinary teams.
- Proven ability to deal effectively with development partners.
- Previous work experience with civil society organizations and donor agencies is desirable.

The World Bank offers a competitive compensation package based on the local market and attractive medical plan. Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than **September 6, 2004** to :**KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc.**, c/o Ruby Barcelona at 22/F 139 Corporate Centre, 139 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or email to rubib@ksearch.com.ph or fax to 893-6259

Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.

KSEARCH ASIA CONSULTING INC

DKT Philippines, Inc., a non-government, non-profit and non-stock organization involved in the sales and distribution of contraceptive products is in need of the following individuals for:

Social Marketing Representatives
(GMA/North Luzon/Visayas)

- A dedicated self-starter, aggressive and highly motivated individual.
- Previous experience in a sales organization with consumer products and possesses the necessary presentation skills with the ability and aptitude to learn and understand information of medical science in nature.
- Must know how to drive and possesses a valid driver's license.
- Graduate of any four or five year degree courses.
- Must have a strong interpersonal communication skills.
- Ability to speak any of the following dialect is preferred: Pangalatok, Ilocano, Ibanag, Hiligaynon and/or Bisaya (for provincial assignments).

Franchise Operations Manager

Job Description:

The Franchise Operations Manager will be responsible for the development, operation, and expansion of a franchise undertaking in the Philippines. He/She will manage this effort within a department consisting of professionals engaged in collaborative efforts with government units, industrial entities, health service providers and non-governmental organizations.

Job Requirements:

The successful candidate will be a result-oriented individual with proven entrepreneurial, management and leadership skills. He/She will be a strategic thinker, a change agent, and a team player with a hands-on approach of work that will contribute to high levels of achievement within the organization. He/she must have exceptional proven skills in written and oral communications, public speaking, and presentations, problem solving and analysis, and decision-making.

The candidate must meet the following minimum requirements:

- College Degree in Business Management or equivalent. A Master's Degree is an added advantage.
- Minimum of five (5) years relevant experience in sales, marketing or franchise system development and operation.
- A track record of high achievement.
- Highly organized, systematic, and heads-on work ethic.
- Proficient in computer programs.

Applicants can look forward to an industry competitive package. Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé thru mail or e-mail, no later than August 25, 2004:

Human Resources Department
DKT Philippines, Inc.
Suite 801 The Linden Suites
37 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas, Pasig City
E-mail: hrd@frenzy.com.ph

WANTED NURSES

If you have the following:

1) Willingness to live and work in the U.S.
2) Nursing degree
3) RN license with 2 years experience
4) CGFNS certification
5) English proficiency (TOEFL or TOEIC or IELTS)
6) Willingness to take the NCLEX exams

e-mail your resumé to nurses@att.net or fax to 001-201-330-0425 in the U.S.

We are in need of Aggressive and Result-oriented Individuals to fill our vacancies

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The Preferred I.T. Distributor

ACCOUNT MANAGER

- Graduate of any 4-year business course or other relevant degree
- Must have at least two years relevant work experience in the IT industry
- Must possess an excellent track record of building and managing accounts
- Must be aggressive and possess excellent skills in formulating marketing plans and strategies
- Must possess excellent written and oral English communication skills
- Must possess the ability to work under pressure and minimal supervision
- Must be a Team Player and have excellent interpersonal relationship skills

ACCOUNT SPECIALIST

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Female, 21-30 years old
- With at least 1 year work experience in the IT industry, Preferably in account management
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Responsible, aggressive and output-oriented
- Good command in written and spoken English
- With pleasing personality

SALES OFFICER

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Female, 21-30 years old, with or without experience
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- High level of customer credibility
- Responsible, aggressive and output-oriented
- Good command in written and spoken English
- With pleasing personality

PRODUCT MANAGER

- Graduate of any 4-year business course or other relevant degree
- Must have at least two years relevant work experience in the IT industry
- Must possess an excellent track record of managing and promoting IT Products
- Must be aggressive and possess excellent skills in formulating marketing plans and strategies
- Must possess excellent written and oral English communication skills
- Must possess the ability to work under pressure and minimal supervision
- Must be a Team Player and have excellent Interpersonal Relationship skills

PRODUCT SPECIALIST

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Male or Female, 21-30 years old
- With at least 1 year work experience in the IT industry, preferably in handling product promotion
- Aggressive, responsible and output-oriented
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Good command in written and spoken English

Send your resume or submit personally at:

THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER
LAMCO International Trading Corporation, Inc.
Suite 1804 18/F Tektite East Tower, PSEC
Ortigas , Pasig City

Or you can also apply on-line at hrm@lamco.com.ph. For further information and other career opportunities, visit our website at www.lamco.com.ph

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Interview with the representative from
Jung Ya International Co., Ltd.
Taipei, Taiwan R. O. C.
When : 20 August 2004, Friday 8:00am

- **Female CARETAKERS** for Taiwan who are at least 22 years old & high school graduate. Basic salary of Php23,760 (NT$15840) plus rest day OT pay. **SALARY DEDUCTION** scheme is available.

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(MANILA BASED)

- Preferably Male, not more than 45 years old
- Holder of an appropriate college degree from a reputable university
- With at least 2 to 3 years solid working experience in the same capacity preferably in a related industry
- Possess strong leadership skills

MARKETING EXECUTIVE
(MANILA BASED)

- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old, with pleasing personality, well groomed;
- Holder of a college degree;
- Must have work experience in the same capacity preferably in air, land and sea transport;
- Computer literate, has good communications skills, articulate, excellent phone manners, mature and organized, and can work extended hours.

Qualified candidates are requested to submit their comprehensive and detailed resume' indicating the minimum salary desired, latest 2 x 2 photo, telephone number/s and other relevant credentials not later than August 31, 2004 to:

P.O. BOX 7748
Domestic Airport Post Office
Metro Manila, Philippines
E-mail: legalpersonnel_7748@yahoo.com
Attention: THE LEGAL & PERSONNEL AFFAIRS DEPT.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

- With salary of P195,000 – P200,000 per annum
- Must be proficient in Java, MySQL & PHP
- Must be familiar in Symbian OS
- BS/MS in Computer Science or related field of study
- At least 1 year working experience in Software Development an advantage
- Experience with application and database servers highly desired.
- Must have strong Technical Skills, Inter-personal skills, and an ability to think out-of-the-box.

OUTBOUND SALES AGENTS

- With salary of P120,000 – P200,000 per annum
- Must have excellent Tagalog-English (Taglish) conversational skills
- Must have completed at least 2nd year college
- 18 to 27 years old, with outgoing personality
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)
- Basic computer knowledge
- Internet savvy

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Global 9, Inc. Lapanday center, 2263 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City
Taking the MRT, get off the Magallanes Station and go towards Mantrade (5th bldg. from EDSA)
or SEND YOUR RESUMES WITH ID PICTURE TO: hrmakati@yahoo.com
or MAIL TO: P O Box 892 Dasmariñas Village, Makati City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
BOOKKEEPER
At least 2 years work experience in Accounting system
Send your resumé, transcript of records, 2x2 ID picture & NBI clearance at 75 P. Tuazon St., Cubao, Q C.
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  College or vocational school graduate
  Must be able to supervise wood working operations and have woodworking experience in the operation of wood working equipment such as jointers, shapers, four sides moulder, finishing sanders etc.
  Computer Literate with Knowledge in MS WORD and EXCEL
- **Site / Cost Architect or Engineer**
  Architectural or Engineering graduate (license not required)
  Will be responsible in estimating project requirements
  Experience in site finishing supervision of houses & offices
  Computer literacy in MS WORD, EXCEL and CADD is an advantage.
  Must know how to drive vehicle & with valid driver's license
- **Area Account / Sales Executives**
  College Graduate and experience in sales of architectural products such as flooring, doors and windows, lights, etc.
  Will be assigned specified areas for sales saturation
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  Must know how to drive vehicle & with valid driver's license
- **Accounting Assistant**
  College Graduate, major in accounting
  Min experience in general accounting
  Knowledge of MS WORD, EXCEL and MYOB
- **Company Driver**
  Experience in driving for company officers using vehicles with conventional & automatic transmission
  Must be knowledgeable in driving in and out of Metro Manila
  Willing to live stay – in, if so required.

Interested parties may send their application by snail mail, email, fax or delivered in person.

Address : 7828 Beachwood St., Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque
Email : rovimultiproducts@yahoo.com
Fax : (02) 8235203

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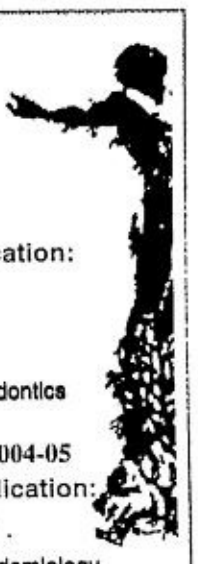

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(Deadline for filling of application: October 22, 2004)

- Master of Science in Dentistry (Orthodontics)
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(Deadline for filing of application: January 14, 2005)

- Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology

For inquiries, call 526-5870/523-1495/523-1498 or e-mail upm_ngohs@yahoo.com. Visit www.upm.edu.ph/gradoffice for downloadable forms. Mailing address: National Graduate Office for the Health Sciences, University of the Philippines Manila, 3/F Joaquin Gonzales Hall, Padre Faura corner Ma. Orosa Streets, Ermita, 1000 Manila.

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Power Memory, an innovative center for learning, is looking for hard-working and dedicated individuals to join our dynamic team. We are in need of the following:

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- Not more than 35 years old
- Preferably a graduate of top schools in Metro Manila
- Possesses good leadership and communication skills
- Good team player
- Fluent in Filipino and English
- Experience in teaching or training is an advantage
- Strong sense of professionalism

MARKETING OFFICER
- Not more than 35 years old
- At least two years' experience in sales or marketing
- Possesses good communication skills
- Fluent in Filipino and English
- Good team player
- Strong sense of professionalism

Successful candidates can look forward to good start-up salary plus commissions. Please submit your resume through mail or deliver to:

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Rm. 206 Narra Bldg., 2276 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City, MM
E-mail: pm_makatieast@yahoo.com

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- Marketing Assistant
- PR Consultants
- Executive Secretary

Send your resumé with recent 2x2 photo to:
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Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Interviews are strictly by appointment only

FREELANCERS: Pls. submit sample of projects completed and professional rate sheet

JOB Market

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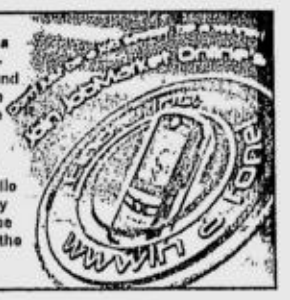

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- Finance Asia Magazine, April 2002

No. 6 in the Philippines Category of Asia's Most Admired Companies
-Far Eastern Economic Review, YearEnd 2001

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We advance the quality of life of individuals and organizations by delivering the SOLUTIONS to their communications-based needs. We provide quality and personalized service that exceeds our customers' needs and expectations. We are driven by a culture of excellence and innovation, enabled by best-in-market talent and superior operating effectiveness and flexibility.

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RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Answer and resolve inquiries of Globe subscribers
- Provide information to subscribers regarding services

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- Required skill(s): Knowledge in basic computer, articulate, have good communication skills.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Manila (Mandaluyong).
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens.
- Fresh graduates/Entry level applicants are encouraged to apply.
- Applicants must be willing to work in shifts

*Interested applicants may walk-in at the **3F Tower 1, Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer corner Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City.***
Bring a resumé, 2x2 picture and photocopy of transcript.

For provincial applicants kindly send your resume, 2x2 picture and photocopy of transcript to:

Staffing Operations Department
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Mandaluyong City

or apply online at

www.globe.com.ph

Contact Details: Landline - 730-2883; Mobile #s- 0917-5883635; 0917-5883638-41

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- Pleasing personality, flexible
- Excellent in written and oral communication skills
- Leaders and movers who believe they can make significant contributions to move the company forward

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Department: Technical
Reporting to: General Manager
Qualifications/Skills:
Proficient in network architecture, implementation and security. Must be proficient in TCPIP protocol and network ports.
Must have working knowledge of Visual Basic .Net, SQL database, ASP, HTML and other web related scripts.
Can plan, organize, control and execute technical projects, lead software teams, as well as manage resources involved.
Experience related to consumer goods and customer service a plus.
A minimum of 3 years technical experience required.

2. Junior Programmer
Department: Technical
Reporting to: Senior Systems Developer and Network Administrator
Qualifications/Skills:
Must have programming knowledge of Visual Basic .Net, SQL database, ASP, HTML and other web related scripts.
Basic computer hardware troubleshooting required.
Must be creative, hardworking and disciplined.
Can interface well in a team composed of non-technical personnel.
Experience related to consumer goods and customer service a plus.

3. CRM OFFICER
Qualifications/Skills:
Customer oriented.
Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills.
Must be proficient in data processing and mining.
Responsibilities:
Generate internal sales.
Establish buying patterns and create programs to serve customer needs.
Maintain constant communication with the customers.

4. Online Customer Relations and Key Accounts Coordinator
Qualifications/Skills:
Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills as well as good interpersonal skills.
Must have experiential background in e-commerce procedures and principles.
Experience in customer handling a plus.
Responsibilities:
Handle all online customer concerns and queries.
Manage all channels of customer communication (e-mail, phone, voice mail, comments page)

Applicants who love to work with young dynamic individuals in agile, responsive teams, drink lots of coffee and coke, yet hate office uniforms and paying for parking tickets, are preferred. Submit applications via email to hrd@myayala.com, fax (+632 8132414), or send to myAyala.com M/F Greenbelt 1 Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City 1228 before August 31, 2004.

SM

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Job Responsibility

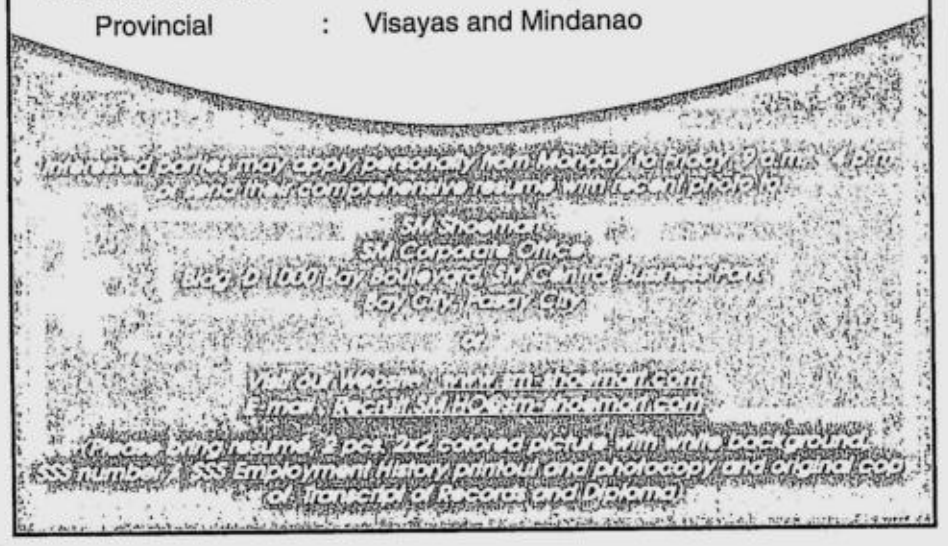
Responsible for the over-all operations of a department store to ensure attainment of optimum sales performance and excellent customer service.

Job Qualification

- has a degree in Business Management, Marketing or any related course
- with 3 to 5 years relevant experience in Management or Marketing in a senior capacity
- with outstanding leadership, interpersonal and team-building skills
- able to conceptualize and implement attainable sales projections
- has proven track records in sales and service

Branch Locations

Provincial : Visayas and Mindanao



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164 COURT STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, 11201
AROEMA@AOL.COM OR KATHIMARRERO@MSN.COM
+1-718-237-2282 loc 104

Contact also our friendly Liaison Officers:
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MANILA (every 30th of the month, same venue)	AUGUST 30, 2004 SATURDAY, 1-5 PM SYCAMORE FUNCTION ROOM, RICHMONDE HOTEL SAN MIGUEL AVENUE, ORTIGAS CENTER
NAGA CITY	AUGUST 21, 2004, Saturday, 3-7 PM VILLA, CACERES, LA BELLA 3
SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	AUGUST 25, 2004, Wednesday, 3-7 PM GRACELANE HOTEL, TOMAS HALL
BAGUIO CITY	AUGUST 28, 2004, Saturday, 3-7 PM HOTEL VENIZ, FLORENCE-A

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Encoder/Information Manager

The E/IM will take charge and stewardship over single or multiple sites ensuring that they remain responsive to the needs of the client and the end users.

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Database Programmer for Web-based DBs

Requirements:

- excellent in PHP 4
- knowledge in MySQL 4, db design and deployment in redhat 9
- hard knowledge on linux redhat 9, apache 2.0
- javascript (cross-browser)
- html 4 and css
- XML 1.0 / SAX / DOM
- fast learner
- considerable knowledge in data modeling
- able to work well under pressure in a team environment.
- result-oriented person
- needs to articulate (preferably good communication skills: english [written and oral])
- has a keen eye for detail
- pleasing personality

For information on our requirements see http://www.slingshot.ph/jobs/db.htm

Project Manager

The project manager (PM) takes charge of a development team of 3-6 persons. His ultimate responsibility is the timely and efficient completion of software and web development projects. Due to the large scope of responsibility entailed with the position, the PM is authorized to move heaven and earth in the pursuit of project completion within deadlines and within budgets.

For information on our requirements see http://www.slingshot.ph/jobs/pm.htm

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Applicants should provide/send the following documents to us via mail or email. Four (4) documents are required.

1. A brief resumé providing your name, current contact info and history of education and employment. Please include references (no relations).

2. A comprehensive listing of past work and project involvements. Please state what your role/s were and specific tasks that you performed for the project. Use as many pages as you require.

3. An essay talking about your working style and kind of work you are hoping for. It should be no longer than one page (letter-sized) double spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman or Helvetica.

4. A photograph (may be included in the basic resumé)

ALL INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE REJECTED.

Documents must be provided in either TEXT FILE, or PDF formats. Please check your attachements for viruses before sending. Our server will automatically reject any infected documents.

Selected applicants will be interviewed.

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Email your package to: jobs@slingshot.ph or mail to: Unit 3309 Robinson's Equitable Tower, ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

A foreign assistance organization has an immediate need for a **PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST**. The successful candidate will serve as one of the Project Management Specialists in the organization. The incumbent is a professional level employee who provides assistance and serves as advisor to senior-level staff in the development, management, and evaluation of various projects particularly those development activities on infrastructure and education. The position manages one or more projects assuring that all activities are being carried out towards attainment of goals and objectives of the organization. The incumbent is required to identify possible deficiencies in the implementation of the different activities and provide recommendations on necessary actions to be taken by the organization and contractors to prevent and/or correct these deficiencies. He/she conducts follow up and monitoring to make sure that all required activities are properly and timely implemented and consequently, prepares required reports and documentation. Possession of a Bachelor's degree in Engineering or related field, with substantial concentration on project management is required. Post graduate degree is highly desirable. Six to eight years of responsible experience in engineering and project management or related work. Experience in drawing up contract scopes of work, and managing contractors is desirable. Must have excellent command of Pilipino and English languages, both written and spoken. Fluency in Visayan dialect is desirable. Must have or must quickly develop a substantial level of expertise on how to effectively operate in Mindanao; a solid understanding of the economic, social, cultural, political, ethnic and other factors that influence the pace of economic development in Mindanao is essential; a working knowledge of the Philippine Government's operational procedures is desirable; an understanding of a foreign assistance organization's development perspectives, objectives and priorities for Mindanao is required. Excellent human relations, interpersonal and team skills are required to establish and maintain contacts with middle to senior level officials of the Philippine Government and local government and the organization's contractors, sub-contractors and grantees. Must be proficient in the use of computers.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health/life insurance, supplementary retirement plan are offered.

Application letter with 2x2 photo and comprehensive resumé must be received **no later than Friday, September 3, 2004.**

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

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E-mail Address: reggie.hernandez@mdexmanila.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Not more than 35 years old
- Preferably Licensed Custom Broker
- With wide experience in Customs Brokerage, Logistics and Forwarding Business
- Computer literate
- Good in oral and written communication
- Pleasing personality

Apply in person and submit the following:

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Suite 1605, The Taipan Place,
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FOUNDATION FOR THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT
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The Foundation for the Philippine Environment, an NGO National Environmental Fund, is looking for qualified staff for the position of

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A Facility Raising Funds for Sustainable Development and the Philippine Environment

Minimum Qualifications:

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The HRDA Manager
Foundation for the Philippine Environment
77 Matahimik Street, Teachers' Village, Quezon City

Applications must be received not later than 03 September 2004
Previous applicants need not apply.
We will respond to qualified applicants only.
No telephone inquiry will be entertained.

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Requirements:
Male/Female, not more than 35 years old, Engineering, Business, Marketing, Communications Graduate • At least 5 years experience with proven track record of success with sales and account management • Excellent oral and written communication skills in Filipino and English (knowledge of Chinese an advantage but not required) • Knowledge in products like lighting or electrical or ventilation products an advantage.

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Responsibilities:
Assist the Manager in research and analysis, project planning and its implementation • Organize and coordinate daily and weekly operation's schedules and activities • Handle business correspondence, reports, presentation and other administrative work

Requirements:
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Interested applicants are invited to apply personally with comprehensive resumé TOR, employment certificates, 2x2 colored photo, or e-mail to hrd@zenithinternational.ph or zgchrd@vasla.com

LeMarBen Classic Condominium
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The ideal applicant must meet the following requirements and should be able to start as soon as possible:
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Or
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Should you have any questions please give us a call at 757-6500 or 757-6567.

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Sportshouse Human Resource Department
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or e-mail at hrd@sportshouse.com.ph

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ACQUISITION SPECIALIST

A foreign assistance organization has an immediate need for an **ACQUISITION SPECIALIST** who will be responsible for the proper administration, timely completion, and prompt close-out of acquisition and assistance instruments managed by its different project offices. The successful candidate will be providing recommendations and/or alternatives as to the kind of acquisition or award for proposed activities of the project offices depending on the intent and level of control. He/She will have to ensure that the scopes of work for proposed activities are contractible and have complete documentation (scopes of work, budgets, waivers of competition or source and/or origin, if required) for acquisition/assistance purposes. The incumbent will be preparing solicitation documents ensuring that these are advertised where applicable. He/She will be required to participate in technical evaluation meetings as representative of the Contracting Officer where he/she will provide guidance on acquisition/contracting regulations and will ensure compliance with procurement integrity rules. The incumbent is also responsible for doing cost/price analyses to determine if costs in budgets are fair, reasonable, and realistic. He/She is also responsible for negotiations with the organizations on costs / prices, terms, etc. until submission of final / best offer. Minimum educational requirement is completion of a Bachelor's degree in fields like in accounting, finance, business or pre-law.

Completion of post graduate study is desirable. At least four (4) years of progressively responsible experience in acquisition, contracting, and assistance gained from an international or donor organizations highly preferred. Good knowledge of international and local business practices and detailed knowledge of local market pricing customs and practices are required. An excellent command of English (both written and oral) and good computer skills are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Application letter with 2x2 photo and comprehensive resumé must be received **no later than September 3, 2004.**

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

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(2) LABORERS

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- All personnel, including laborers must have good command of the English language, some Arabic will be helpful.

Salaries are competitive with the local job markets.
All employees have housing, medical, dental and optical insurance.

Applicants are requested to send their CVs via email to misyan@saudi.net.sa with courtesy copy to jjohnsonjr32780@msn.com. Upon receipt of your CVs, each applicant will be contacted and scheduled for an interview, please insure that you list the most reliable means to contact you.

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7. Willing to work in Mandaluyong City

Qualified applicants may send their resumes (with picture) and transcript of records to:

PO Box 12976
Ortigas Center
Pasig City

'I am nervous speaking in English!'

From page 8

your family and to your friends in English and welcome feedback from them so that you can improve.

Managing fear

It is normal to be nervous when we are being interviewed because we know that we are being observed, assessed and evaluated. The interview may be the first and last, or it could lead to a second interview, to a third and so on, until a decision is made to hire you.

Learn to manage your fear of interviews and of being interviewed in English because fear makes it likely for you to commit mistakes. There are at least five ways of managing your fear of interviews:

1. Write down the frequently asked questions that are likely to be asked during interviews. Please see next section below.

2. Write down your answers to each question in English. Ask the help of someone knowledgeable, perhaps someone in your network of relatives and friends, to help you with your answers or to critique your answer to each of the above questions.

3. Memorize your answers in English.

4. Role play the interview. Get someone to act as the interviewer and you as the applicant. Start the "mock" interview with you entering the room of the interviewer, greeting him or her, sitting down, correct sitting posture, and looking at the interviewer and answering each question being asked in English. Continue the role-play until you become comfortable and at ease.

5. Self-affirmation. With the above preparation, say to yourself: "I can answer the questions in English. I'm confident. I'm comfortable in speaking in English." Repeat this until you believe it.

If you commit mistakes in answering some questions and don't get another invitation for an interview, resolve that you will do better in the next interview with another company. Correct your answers to the questions yourself and role-play again.

Frequently asked questions

Know in advance the kind of questions to be asked and write down your answers to these questions in English. There are books/workbooks on job hunting where you can get tips on job interviews such as: what to do before you come for an interview, frequently asked questions during the interview and how to answer them, what to do during the interview, how to follow-up an interview, etc. My workbook on Life/Career Planning, which you can find in popular bookstores, contain such points.

Frequently asked questions are the following:

1. What can you do? Tell me about yourself. Why are you interested in our company?

2. What are your strengths? What are your skills or what can you do?

3. What are your major weaknesses or limitations?

4. What is your career goal? What do you expect to be doing in 8-10 years? Why?

5. Why are you leaving (or did you leave) your present company?

6. What kind of a job are you looking for? Why?

7. Why are you applying in our company? What do you know about our company?

8. What was your most significant accomplishment in your last job position?

You may not be asked all or most of them, but knowing that they might be asked and being prepared with your answers in English, can give you self-confidence.

Pre-interview preparation

To minimize nervousness, prepare yourself and get ready for the interview by doing the following:

1. Know your strengths and weaknesses. Be prepared with a written list of your strong points so that your weaknesses seem slight in comparison. Write these down in English and say these to yourself over and over again. This will enhance your self-confidence. The interviewer will be constantly probing for weaknesses and testing for strengths.

2. Know the requirements of the job so that you can relate how your qualifications compare with these requirements. You must be able to show the fit between "what you can do" and "what must be done." Write this down again in English and practice repeatedly until you can say them with confidence. You must be prepared to show why you should be hired.

3. Know the company you are applying to: its products and/or service, its competitors, its history, size, location of plants and the like. A brief description of the company usually accompanies an advertisement for vacant positions.

Other sources of information about a company include:

- Telephone directory
- Publications like the Philippines Top 100, 500 or 1,000 companies which are available in bookstores or libraries
- Advertisements of products or services of company on radio or TV
- Its products being sold in stores or displayed in show window

4. Write down your own questions in English. Near the end of the interview, you may be asked if you have your own questions. Write down your questions on an index card. If given the go ahead, inquire about the nature of the work of the vacant position, the working hours, opportunities for career growth and advancement, training programs given to employees, how much the job pays, the benefits given to regular employees, and any other points that may not have been covered yet. If the interviewer does not ask you to ask questions, you can ask if you will be allowed to ask one to two questions.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

You can develop the competencies for and self-confidence in job interviews to maximize your chances of being hired for the right job in the right career for you. You can develop the ability to speak in English and with self-confidence, if you have a strong motivation to learn because you see the benefits of speaking in English for yourself, both in the present and in the future. God bless you.

(Ms Santamaria is president of Career Systems Inc., a leading career development consultancy company. Send requests for career advice to carsys@qinet.net *or to* peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph*)*

What is the Pinoy work ethic ?

From page 8

on adherence to rules and regulations and on being honest in doing their tasks (i.e. in the use of company time and office equipments and supplies). In addition, much has to be done to improve on the Filipino employee's attitude of valuing punctuality.

What are some implications that leaders of organizations can draw from the results of this survey? Only 70 percent of the respondents reported that their organization has a formal work ethic policy. This suggests that employers need to be more explicit about their expected code of conduct. Are there clear-cut rules that govern such behaviors like using computers, supplies and the telephone, or policies on allowing guests (such as vendors) in the work areas. If there are existing policies, were they effectively communicated to employees, to ensure understanding and agreement? Are there mechanisms to ensure and monitor the implementation?

Work hours policies

The policies on work hours should also be looked into. Policies that allow flexible working hours might help employees to arrive on time in the office because others might be late for reasons that are hard to control (like traffic congestion at certain times of the day). The negative consequences of being late might also be too light. Or the positive implications for striving to be always early or on time may not be perceived as rewarding.

Lastly, positive work ethic lies in the belief that work has intrinsic value. Work in itself should be meaningful and rewarding to the individual. Making the work itself interesting and satisfying would help strengthen the individual's work ethic.

(Joy Teng-Calleja is a lecturer and graduate student in Psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. Gina Hechanova is a faculty member of the Department of Psychology in Ateneo and director for Research and OD of Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development. For feedback about this article, please contact ateneocord@admu.edu.ph.*)*

Erratum: In last month's People at Work Pulse on "Why do people want to work abroad? " the salary needed to satisfy one's basic needs back in the year 2000 amounts to P11,605 instead of P1,605. People at Work apologizes for the error.

An expanding progressive company is urgently in need of the following:

ACCOUNTANTS
ACCOUNTING CLERKS/BOOKKEEPERS
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Qualifications:
- Preferably with working experience
- Computer literate/familiar with windows and office
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- Good oral & written communication skills

Qualified applicant kindly send your detailed resumé and Transcript together with an inexpensive photo to:

Personnel Manager
P.O. Box 380
1502 Greenhills, Metro Manila, Philippines

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- Male/Female, Single, not over 25 years old
- College Graduate, preferably psychology or behavioral science or any related course
- Good commanding skills
- With pleasing personality & good interpersonal skills

PC & Electronics Technician
- Male, Single, not over 25 years old
- Preferably an engineering graduate specializing in computers and electronics
- Proficient in hardware/software troubleshooting, installation, & assembly
- Proficient in network configuration & cabling
- Knowledgeable in diagrams & fine soldering skill

Accounting Assistant
- Female, Single, not over 25 years old
- Candidate must be a graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably CPA
- Analytical and detail-oriented
- Could work on extended hours, with minimal supervision
- Proficient in business application software

Management Trainee
- Male Female, Single, not over 25 years old
- Graduate of any business course, preferably with MBA degree
- Excellent in written and oral communication skills
- Good commanding and interpersonal skills, with pleasing personality; excellent organization and logistic skills
- Aggressive, results oriented, self-motivated and highly trainable
- Advanced proficiency with MS Office applications and other software

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- Male/Female, Single, not over 25 years old
- College Graduate of any course
- Proficient in verbal and written communication
- With pleasing personality & good in public relations
- Aggressive, sales-driven, self-motivated and results-oriented
- Willing to be sent to various parts of the city

Marketing Assistant
- Male Female, Single, not over 25 years old
- Graduate in Business Management or Marketing
- Proficient in design, layout, written, & oral communication
- With pleasing personality and good in public relations
- Aggressive, self-motivated and results oriented

Interested applicants may submit their resume with a recent 2x2 picture and other credentials at 219 Wilson St., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M. or email to: silverg8@info.com.ph. For inquiries, call 723-8832 / 722-8053.

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Send resumé with 2x2 photo to:
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San Juan, Metro Manila
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Apply personally or send resumé to our corporate office:

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A major player in the Philippine home textile industry is looking for the following personnel:

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- Highly personable, self-motivated and with passion to succeed
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- Preferably with one year or more sales experience gained from fast consumer, garment, home textile and service products
- Incentives include basic salary, commission and other benefits; Able to drive

CONCESSION & PROMO SUPERVISORS
- Male / Female
- Experience in Handling Promo Staff & dealing with Department Heads in Stores
- Hardworking and with pleasing personality
- Preferably able to drive

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
- Male; 25 yrs. and above
- Must have 3 to 5 yrs. experience in Garments & Textile company
- Fluent in English

QUILTING MACHINE OPERATOR
- Must be able to operate computerized system quilting machine
- With 2 years experience

ACCOUNTING STAFF
- Female, Single, at least 25 years old; with at least 2 yrs. experience
- Accounting Graduate; with pleasing personality

Qualified applicants may send or come personally with resume and application letter and 2x2 photo for immediate processing to 65-D Bagsakan cor. Sirloin Road, FTI Complex, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila. Tels. 8391785 / 8391916 Fax: 8370993 / 8975922

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- College graduate
- Good in customer service
- Above average physical appearance

VAN ASSISTANT
- Male
- Not more than 26 years old
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- High School Graduate

Please submit your resumé with picture, transcript of records & employment certificate to:

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

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MERCHANDISER FOR EXPORT

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2. With pleasing personality
3. Related working experience is a must
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5. Computer literate

Apply in person: #350 Irma St., Marick Subd. Cainta, Rizal. Look for Tess Tel. No. 240-1899

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Urgently needs

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

Qualifications:
- Male
- 27 to 32 years old
- Licensed Electrical Engineer with experience
- Background in Lighting Industry is a plus

Please send your application letter, resumé and/or curriculum vitae and transcript of records to:

The General Manager
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Qualifications:
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➢ Interested applicants must provide 3 recent demos/projects/websites with Flash animation.
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- Good communication skills and computer literate
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- Applicants for Cebu base also accepted

MARKETING STAFF
- Female, 23-32 years old
- With experience in marketing-related position (trade marketing background an advantage)
- Knowledgeable in planning and implementation of projects
- Good oral and written communication skills. Computer literate.

OFFICE STAFF
- Female, 21-25 years old
- Commerce graduate
- Computer literate
- Organized and can easily follow instructions
- Fooklen speaking an advantage
- With or without experience
- Applicants for Cebu base also accepted

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- ☑ Graduate of BSHRM and other related courses
- ☑ 5 years working experience in restaurant operations; 3 years should be in Supervisory level
- ☑ Computer literate (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Kitchen Supervisors – (KS)
- ☑ Graduate of BS Food and Nutrition, HRM or other related courses
- ☑ 2 years working experience; 1 year as Asst. Kitchen Supervisor
- ☑ Has knowledge in menu planning, food costing and inventory management

Dining Supervisor – (DS)
- ☑ Graduate of BSHRM or other related courses
- ☑ 2 years working experience as an Asst. Dining Supervisor or Captain Waiter.
- ☑ With good customer relations skills

Master Cook – (MC)
- ☑ Had previous formal or vocational training in cooking
- ☑ With 3-5 years working experience
- ☑ With knowledge in menu planning, food costing and inventory management.

Bookkeeper – (BK)
- ☑ Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
- ☑ At least 1 year experience in bookkeeping, preferably in restaurant setting
- ☑ Computer literate (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Banquet and Sales Coordinator – (BSC)
- ☑ Not more than 25 years old
- ☑ Graduate of BS Marketing, HRM or other related courses
- ☑ 1 year experience in restaurant marketing operations, store opening activities and Party Hosting
- ☑ Has solid experience in Local Sales Marketing (LSM), from conceptualization to post evaluation
- ☑ Computer literate (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- ☑ Must have a pleasing personality with good English communication skills

Dining Trainor – (DT)
- ☑ Male, at least 25 years old, 5'6 in height and with pleasing personality
- ☑ Graduate of BSHRM or any related course
- ☑ With at least 3 years experience in dining restaurant operations
- ☑ Must have knowledge in computer application (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- ☑ Possess effective oral and written communication skills
- ☑ Must be proficient in conducting training to different level of participants
- ☑ Must be willing to do provincial assignments from time to time

Kitchen Trainor – (KT)
- ☑ Male or Female, at least 25 years old
- ☑ Graduate of Nutrition and Dietetics, Food and Technology or any related courses
- ☑ With hands on experience in cooking and with at least 3 years experience in restaurant operations
- ☑ Must have knowledge in computer application (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- ☑ Possess effective oral and written communication skills
- ☑ Must be proficient in conducting training to different level of participants
- ☑ Must be willing to do provincial assignments from time to time

Franchise Marketing Officer – (FMO)
- ☑ Graduate of BS Marketing, HRM or other related courses
- ☑ Male or Female, at least 25 years old
- ☑ 1 year experience in restaurant marketing operations, LSM program and store opening activities
- ☑ Has solid experience in Local Sales Marketing (LSM) from conceptualization to post evaluation and coordination
- ☑ Proficient in computer application (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- ☑ Must have a pleasing personality, with good English communication skills

Interested parties may apply in person or mail their application letters with their resume and ID photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER
Max's Franchising, Inc.
Penthouse, Max's Baclaran Bldg.
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Please indicate the code of the position you are applying for

HR regional director attributes company success to flexibility

By JR Bustamante

HR FOCUS

"WE ARE a very, very flexible company in every aspect of the business from infrastructure, information technology, skills set, management support functions, identifying and hiring as well as retaining of staff." Sykes HR Regional Director Ruchi Mehrotra reveals the reason Sykes remains as one of the top companies in the extremely competitive call center business, "If you look at our portfolio, it is so varied, so immense, and to support that kind of portfolio, you have to have that flexibility. And considering the very nature of this industry, the dynamism, constant change and the fact that most of the employees are young, though it is not restricted to young people only, the attrition is definitely higher than any of the other industries. The flexibility, the desire to change, and the mind frame of continuous improvement is what we are doing our best today."

The company

Sykes Enterprises, Inc. began its operations in 1977 in the US with a vision to build a global network of contact centers large enough to offer economies of scale but manageable to staff and operate. The company began by identifying and developing facilities in rural communities located near institutions of higher learning. This helped in staffing centers with reliable, high-quality, and well-educated professionals to provide clients with superior customer care and strategic savings. Between 1994 to 1997, the company extended globally to include locations in Europe, Middle East, and Africa. By 1998 to 2003, Sykes has set up business in Canada, Costa Rica, China, India and the Philippines.

"We started out with seven employees and now we employ a couple of thousands; the company has undergone tremendous growth." Mehrotra explains that the Philippines is a preferred spot for the following reasons: the country's close connection and alliance with America, the similarity of culture and accent, and the fact that the Philippines is the third largest English-speaking country in the world.

Business background

A graduate of Masters in Business Administration in her native land of India, Mehrotra considers her operations background experience as a big plus for her department in better understanding the hiring needs from a business standpoint. "You cannot be a successful HR practitioner unless you are a business person, unless you really understand the overall picture."

She further explains the importance of being business savvy in a department that deals with selecting and retaining the right person for the job. "No business can survive without getting the best out of the people. Human Resources has to understand the business and how people can contribute to get that business moving forward. Without that understanding, you won't be able to extract the best out of the people so you have to find out the right mix on how to make the two jive: the business aspect and the people aspect."

On her transition to the HR Department, she points out the challenges and enjoyment in meeting these challenges. "The speed at which we, as a team, are learning and growing is four times faster than any other industry. The speed of change, the momentum of the 32 big Fortune 500 companies driving you to deliver to their different expectations is a never ending challenge."

Human factor

Constant change is a reality inescapable in a business that is dependent on human interaction. Keeping the employees satisfied with their jobs and the clients satisfied with the service rendered are not only her responsibility but are the keys to survival. "It is extremely imperative to understand the requirement of our clients which changes over a period of time. We are serving, not the company who is paying our salaries, but another company that we are not directly interacting with. There is always constant education. It's an exciting place to grow together; we learn so much from our clients."

Mehrotra points out that flexibility is needed in balancing the requirements for maintaining an account and in providing skills not only for hiring but for retaining purposes. "It's human, human, human from beginning to end. Hiring and retaining with such a variety is not an easy task considering the number and variety of people along with the variety of products and services. As the industry grows and matures, we also have to make sure that our tools are keeping pace with the changes in the business requirement."

The HR challenge

Mehrotra believes on focusing all efforts towards keeping the employee happy, excited and challenged with his job. When a company does not put importance in this, the results could be disastrous. "A surefire killer for any company is when their employees drag themselves to work. That is really a killer. When the employee is excited about coming to work, that's when both employee and employer are going to learn from each other. How we create an environment that is going to gain from this symbiotic relationship is the answer to the retention of the employee. You can get the person on board by paying him a high salary but you can't retain them for three to four years unless they have the inner satisfaction that this company is going to meet the objective they have in life. And unless they contribute towards their own growth, they can't contribute to the company."

Mehrotra sums up the role of Human Resources in any company: "Human Resources is really about management of people, how to extract the best out of the people and to deliver the best of what they are capable of. Every person is capable of something but sometimes that individual does not even know what he is capable of. How you can make him see that aspect of what he is capable of is an art. Getting the right people on board is extremely important."

English fluency

A major problem hitting the industry is the deterioration of English proficiency among the applicants. The country could lose future business opportunities due to the lack of English training. Mehrothra explains the significance of this fact: "Recently, I have observed that the English proficiency of this country has seen a downward spiral. It is now getting more difficult to hire fluent English speakers. This is an extremely important requirement for our applicants. We are serving US customers so we have to speak their language to make them comfortable with us and serve them better. It is very important to provide the right kind of communication skills but by now that has become a resource that is not so easy to find. I personally noticed this change living in this country for four years."

Understanding basic English is simply not enough; you have to comprehend it very well to make the business survive. "When people are speaking in English, do you really understand what exactly they are saying? If I say five sentences, this will be interpreted differently by a person from the US and a person from the Philippines. The listening skill is different: the US guy is so used to those five sentences while the Philippine guy is not used to it. Simple sentences mean differently for the American and the Filipino. Excellent listening and comprehension skills are musts. You have to think English to speak English," stresses Mehrothra.

MEHROTRA PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO

Practice, practice

The culprit for the sublevel English proficiency in the country is not the lack of English training schools but it is the attitude of the Filipinos and peer pressure. Ms Mehrotra makes this observation: "I do find people shy when you encourage them to speak in English. I got feedback from my Filipino friends that the person feels he is showing off when he tries to speak in English. Even if you want to practice as an individual, your group won't let you. The Philippines is such a group-group society that you don't want to stand out from the group."

Mehrotra concludes that even with the desire to learn, one will not be able to speak English well if it is not practiced. "Success has to come with the people who want to succeed. It cannot be dictated from outside. The only success to this is not any training institute or college, it is really practice. Think in the language to speak it and you only can do so when you are comfortable with the language. So if you want to gain mastery over something, you have to practice some more."

PROJECT MANAGER

Male, Civil Engineering graduate preferably licensed. Must have 10 years experience in vertical building construction, 5 years of which should be in managerial capacity. Must have experience in commercial management and should understand mechanism of standard contract forms; knowledge in Primavera Project Planner or Microsoft Project is an advantage but not required. Proficiency in communication skills both oral and written is a must.

CONTRACTS MANAGER

Must be licensed CE with at least 10 years solid experience in quantity surveying and commercial/contractual management of construction projects 5 years of which in a managerial capacity. Must be highly skilled in high level negotiations with clients. Must be experienced in contract preparation with excellent skills in contractual correspondence, documentation, claims, variations/change orders, reporting, record keeping and similar tasks. Computer literate.

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- Computer literate
- Knowledgeable in doing Financial Statements
- Willing to be assigned in Meycauayan or Pasay

2. SECRETARY/ OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

- Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Political Science / Mass Communication / Business Administration / Accounting / Engineering courses
- Computer literate and with working experience
- Proficient in both oral and written communication; knowledgeable in doing business correspondence

3. RETAIL STATION MANAGER

- Male / Female, not more than 35 years old
- Willing to be assigned in Lambakin, Meycauayan
- Must know how to drive, preferably has own car
- With pleasing personality and with prior experience in handling gasoline stations

Interested applicants may send their resumé with complete requirements to:

Unit 1702 Somerset Tower I, Leveriza St., Pasay City
Tel. No. 525-8050
Attention: HAZEL

REQUIREMENTS:
1 NBI, Police & Brgy Clearance
2 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture
3. Transcript of Records
4. Medical Certificate

UNDP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

Project ID 00014499 - Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy in the Philippines (CBRED) Project

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites local / international consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the various activities of the project "UNDP-GEF-DOE Project ID 00014499 -Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy in the Philippines (CBRED) Project".

The CBRED Project aims to reduce the annual growth rate of greenhouse gas emissions by replacing part of the current fossil fuel use in the Philippines through the removal of major barriers to renewable energy (RE) that will lead to the development and widespread utilization of renewable energy systems / applications. Specific objectives of the project includes: (1) strengthening the capacity of relevant Government of the Philippines (GOP) agencies to formulate, enact, and implement sound new and renewable energy (NRE) policies; (2) providing NRE information for targeted audiences to build markets, (3) increasing coordination among organization concerned with NRE, (4) assisting market penetration of NRE in remote off-grid communities, and (5) improving quality of NRE technologies and systems.

The project is subdivided into six (6) components, namely: (1) Policy, Planning and Institutional Capacity Building, (2) Market Service Institutionalisation, (3) Information and Promotion Services, (4) RE Initiatives Delivery and Financing Mechanisms, (5) Training Program, and (6) RE Technology Support.

To be able to attain said objectives, the project requires the services of local / international consultants who shall undertake each of the following components:

A. National Consultant on RE Planning and Modelling

This component shall be involved in the conduct of necessary policy and project planning support activities such as improved planning models, processes and tools to assist both government planners and private project developers in the conduct of RE planning and program / project development.

The national consultant is expected to (a) provide support to the RE Economist / Modeller on the development / adoption of an Integrated Energy Planning Model which will systematically incorporate DOE's and other agencies' / organizations' plans on RE; and (b) develop / improve RE-based electrification planning models.

B. International Consultant on RE Equipment Manufacturing (Advisor)

This component is prioritizing RE systems and equipment for standardization, as well as providing technology development assistance to small- and medium-scale, investor-type manufacturers and technology integrators that have the greatest potential for market growth in the Philippines.

The international consultant is expected to (a) provide advice regarding the activities / outputs of the various subcontracts under Component 6 of the CBRED Project, (b) design and provide trainings to RE manufacturers, fabricators, systems integrators, engineering firms, RE equipment testing centers and project implementers in the "Design, Manufacture, Production and Systems Management, and Performance Testing of RE Equipment and Systems", and (c) develop sustainability frameworks and IEC activities to harmonize and integrate activities and outputs of the various subcontracts under Component 6.

C. International Consultant on RE Economist / Modeller

This component shall be involved in the conduct of necessary policy and project planning support activities such as improved planning models, processes and tools to assist both government planners and private project developers in the conduct of RE planning and program / project development.

The international consultant is expected to (a) develop an Integrated Energy Planning Model, and (b) direct and guide the development / improvement of RE-based electrification planning models.

Interested parties must submit their letters of interest together with their curriculum vitaes (CV's), until 30 August 2004, to the following address:

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 892 0611 loc. 275
Fax No. (632) 816-4061 / 893-9598

Bid Documents will be released to shortlisted candidates starting 1 September 2004. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, dates and other schedules, as well as further details on the scope of services required.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Department of Energy. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ETHELIND B. CAPUNO
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- Fluent in both English and Filipino languages;
- Creative and resourceful;
- Computer Literate, Willing to Travel
- Willing to work within Quezon City area

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
- Male or Female, 23 - 28 years old;
- Graduate of any 4-year course;
- With at least one (1) year experience in Event marketing;
- Fluent in both English and Filipino languages;
- Marketing Network and advantage;
- Exemplary negotiation skills. Pleasant personality;
- Computer Literate. Willing to travel;
- Willing to work within Quezon City area

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resume with picture to the HR & Admin. Department, Business Administration, K-ville Townhomes, Canacle Drive, Sanville Subdivision, Tandang Sora, Quezon City or e-mail at big@thebigpictureproductions.com.ph. Tel. Nos: 426-4542, 453-3448; Telefax No.: 455-0773

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Tel. No. 525-8050
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2. 2 pcs 2x2 colored picture
3. Transcript of Records
4. Medical Certificate

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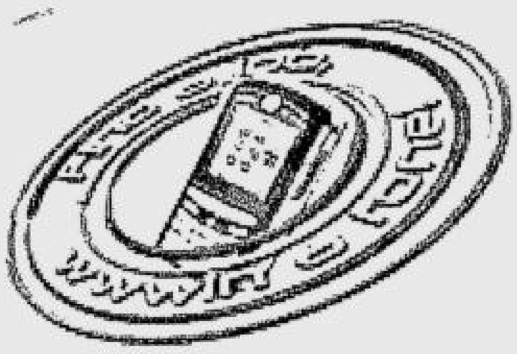

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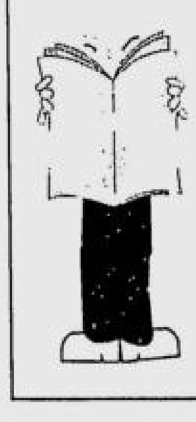

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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

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PEOPLE AT WORK PULSE

What is the Pinoy work ethic?

By Joy Teng-Calleja and Gina M. Hechanova

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

MUCH has been said about the work ethic of Filipinos. Work ethic has to do with being personally accountable and responsible for the work that one does. It is based on the belief that work has intrinsic value.

Many believe that Filipinos have a negative work ethic. The indolent Juan Tamad is still perceived by some as the national archetype; bribery and corruption is believed to be a common practice not only in the government but in private organizations as well. Filipinos are even belittled for the incapacity to deliver quality results due to the tendency to procrastinate (*Bukas na*) or to resort to resignation (*Bahala na*).

Some sociologists and historians blame religion and our long history of being under colonial rule as a reason for the negative work ethic of Filipinos. The more recent and dominant view is that societal structures (e.g. politics) create the condition for its prevalence. This is why Filipino workers are generally perceived as hard working and dependable only when working overseas.

But what really is the work ethic of the Filipino employee? Are they lazy and mendacious like what others assume or are they responsible, motivated, goal-oriented individuals whose actions manifest the value and importance they place on work?

Survey results

Respondents (numbering 37) of the survey included employees from government organizations (30 percent), private companies (22 percent) and the academe (14 percent). Sixty-five percent of them were women and 57 percent were single.

Results indicate that Filipino employees were perceived as committed and hard working (both 68 percent). These were followed by dependable (62 percent), loyal (57 percent), follow rules and regulations (54 percent), honest (46 percent), and punctual (41 percent). The results basically debunk the view that Filipinos lack work ethics. The value that employees put to work is manifested in their commitment and hard work. Their dependability means having the motivation to deliver results of quality and not resort to resignation (*bahala na*) or to mediocrity (*puwede na*). Their loyalty may mean willingness to strive towards attaining organizational success. In fact, when respondents were asked if employees in their organization who render work beyond what is required expect compensation, such as overtime pay, the percentage of those who agreed (43 percent) was very close to those who answered that employees consider it donated time (41 percent).

Low on punctuality

On the negative side, however, punctuality still needs to be developed among Filipinos. One of four respondents reported that employees in their organization generally arrive 30 minutes late for work. This is despite a policy on working hours and tardiness.

In addition, some Filipinos seem to have the tendency to blur the lines between work and personal lives. Majority of the respondents answered that it is acceptable among employees in their organization to use the office computer to "surf the web for own research or interest" (65 percent), "send e-mails to family and friends" (62 percent) and "prepare personal letters" (62 percent).

However, it should be noted that majority of employees report that they do not use the computer for chatting or play. As a general rule, office supplies and equipment are to be used for official business purposes. Nonetheless, 62 percent of the respondents admitted that employees in their organization occasionally use office supplies for personal purposes. Although employees answered that "selling items or food inside the office" were never frequently engaged in, respondents still indicated that they occasionally "entertain vendors inside the work area." Respondents also sometimes engage in "chatting with a friend on the phone" and "run personal errands during office hours." They also, in a few occasions "leave work before the scheduled quitting time."

Adherence to rules

In general, the results of this mini survey show that Filipinos are hardworking, committed, dependable and loyal. However, they still need to improve

WHAT/P.4

Employee perspectives on training

PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse.

This "pulse" will be conducted once a month. The results of this poll will be published the following month, To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month.

Winners from respondents of last month's survey are **Rosalinda Santiago** and **Trishah Fe Rillorta**. (please contact The Philippine Daily Inquirer to claim your

1. For the past two years, how many training programs have you attended? _____ (approximate)

2. If none, why? (Check all that applies. Pls. proceed to numbers 7 and 8)
_____ a) no training provided in the organization
_____ b) no time to attend training
_____ c) boss did not send me
_____ d) Others: _____

3. What kinds of training have you attended? (Check all that applies.)
_____ a) New employee orientation
_____ b) Job-specific/ technical skills
_____ c) Professional skills (e.g. communication, business ethics, etc.)
_____ d) Personal development (e.g. values workshop, health and nutrition, etc.)
_____ e) Computer literacy/ applications
_____ f) Customer service
_____ g) Supervisory/ managerial/ leadership development
_____ h) Others: _____

4. What type of training methodologies have you experienced? (Check all that applies.)
_____ a) Classroom-type
_____ b) On-the-job training/ coaching
_____ c) Computer-based training/ e-learning
_____ d) Teleconferencing
_____ e) Others: _____

5. Who decides your participation in training? (Check all that applies.)
_____ a) Required by the company
_____ b) Recommended by the supervisor
_____ c) Joint decision of supervisor and employee
_____ d) Personal choice

6. From 1-5, rank the reasons why you attend training (with 1 being the most important reason.)
_____ a) Company requirement
_____ b) Career development/ promotion
_____ c) Improve performance on the job
_____ d) Time off from work
_____ e) Meet new friends/ network
_____ g) Others: _____

7. How important is training to you? (1 - least important to 5 - very important) _____

8. How important do you think is training to your organization? (1- least important to 5 - very important)

Name:_____
Gender: _____ Age: _____Civil Status: _____
Nature of Job: _____
Company Name: _____
Industry: _____
Tel/Mobile/E-mail: _____
Mail or fax this form or email-text your answers to:
People at Work Pulse
Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development 2/F Hoffner Bldg., Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Fax No. (632) 426-6065 E-mail: ateneocord@admu.edu.ph or Text answers to (0920)831-9522. Write: topic 1.(answer), 2. (answer), etc. name, gender, status, position, company, address, contact numbers or e-mail

'I am nervous speaking in English!'

By Josie O. Santamaria

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

HI! I would like to ask if it's fine to answer in Tagalog an interview to express myself more although I was asked in English? Is it also fine if I ask the interviewer if I can answer in Tagalog? I am asking these questions because interviews really make me nervous especially if I really need to speak in English. It's not that I can't speak in English; it's just that I don't use it in my everyday conversation with others which is why I am not fluent speaking in English. I am better in written English than in oral English considering I am also a shy person. And after all, we are Filipinos and we are in the Philippines, so why can't we speak in our own language in an application process? Thank you very much for allotting some of your time in reading my questions. Please try to answer as soon as possible. Thanks!

English Shy Jobseeker

Your two questions are very specific and can be answered by "yes" or "no" with some qualifications. However, my long answer seeks to address your fear of job interviews because you are anxious about your deficiency in speaking in English. Yes, when the interviewer asks a question in English, you must also answer in English. Yes, if you feel the need to change into Tagalog/ Filipino to better express yourself, ask the permission of the interviewer and proceed if given the go-ahead. However, go back again to English.

Importance of English

Job interviews for positions requiring a college degree are almost always done in English. It's true that we are Filipinos and we are in the Philippines. However, when applying for a job, the interviewer looks at whether your qualifications fit the requirements of the position you are applying for or for which you are being considered. Aside from IQ, EQ and technical skills, an applicant is also assessed for his or her communication skills in English. The interviewer evaluates your communication skills, especially if the job requires communication with customers, external and internal, by telephone or face-to-face and necessitates using English as a medium.

All employees in a company have internal customers, such as the company's top and senior management, and external customers, such as suppliers and customers, most of whom speak in and expect to be talked to in English. Whether we like it or not, English is the language of communication in business, in government and in a global environment. Facility in the comprehension and speaking in English is one of the Filipino's competitive edge. Thus, you are better off learning to be proficient in thinking in English, understanding in English, talking in English, and writing in English.

If you did not learn English proficiency in school, develop it yourself: go back to basic English grammar, then to reading, writing and speaking in English. The only way to be proficient in English is to practice speaking in English and drilling yourself until you develop competence and self-confidence. Talk to

IAM/P.4

The narrow gate

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

"THE NARROW gate" evokes in me an image of austerity. Physically, it would be so narrow that I could enter it riding a bike, but not a Benz. It's a passage that an ascetic hermit can easily walk through; but a gourmandizing emperor could get stuck in it. The narrow gate spells hardship, curbing our appetites, practicing restraint and hurdling obstacles in order to reach a goal. But if we had our way we'd normally avoid it. Human as we are, we would rather look for an easier way in. Or out.

There is also a narrow gate in the workplace but we hardly notice it because it's almost invisible. Its two pillars are called Principles and Conscience and we enter this gate by choice. Our choice is reflected in our acts big and small. For example, Edgar was in the habit of coming late to work and was beginning to feel the pinch from the resulting salary deductions. To stop such deductions Edgar thought he could either change his habit or bribe the security guard into punching his time card. He chose to ignore the narrow gate; he bribed the security guard. In another case, while alone at work in a hair salon, Maricel accidentally broke a gallon size jar of shampoo. Immediately, she cleaned up the mess and dumped the shards in a public trash can, meaning to keep the incident a secret. But she wouldn't be at peace for days, so she chose the narrow gate—she confessed to the manager, knowing she would be asked to pay for it.

What difference does our choice make? Rejecting the narrow gate over the years, we can turn our beloved country into a cradle of corruption in due time. Not a very nice legacy to leave to our children. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

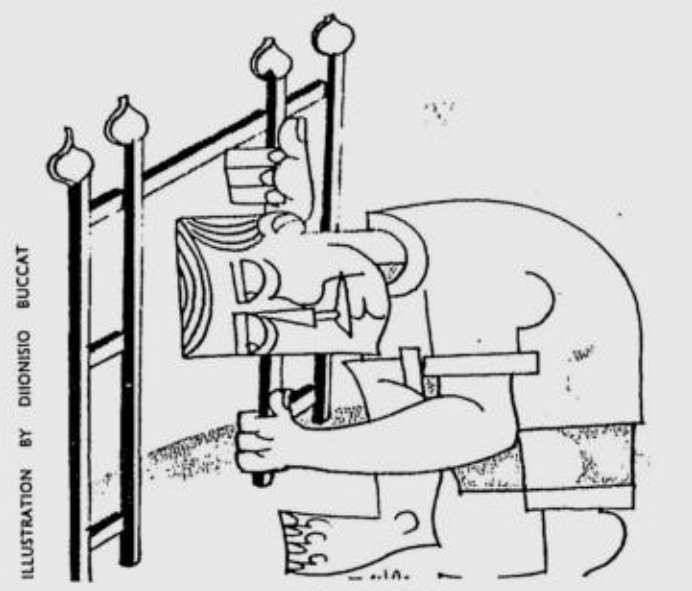

ILLUSTRATION BY DIIONISIO BUCCAT

Luke 13:22-30

'Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.'

Martyrdom in work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

JESUS clearly teaches that it is very difficult to enter heaven; one must be strong enough and strive to do so through a "narrow gate." An idea of the strength needed to become one among the saints in heaven is shown by the two statues of female saints that I saw in an exhibit of sacred images. One was holding a platter with her plucked eyes on it and the other with her cut-off breasts—parts of their bodies which symbolize the values they sacrificed for their faith and love for God. Both women gained heaven by courageously suffering a bloody and most painful martyrdom.

Will the simple, ordinary worker have to give up parts of his body in order to attain heaven? While some receive the gift of martyrdom—losing life and limb for the sake of their love for God, most of us workers can enter heaven without bloodily cutting off our limbs or other parts of our body. We need our whole body and soul in our work. In fact, our jobs demand that we use our brain and brawn entirely for our work, cutting them off, so to speak, from the rest of our body and dedicating them to both the manual and mental jobs at hand.

When we do our daily work with love and devotion, consciously offering it to the Loving God, and courageously bearing all the pains and sufferings it entails, we are enduring a kind of martyrdom which is bloodless but painful, experienced not only in an instant in our life but survived daily through our whole life. This martyrdom in our work is likewise a gift from God which bears much fruit, given when we sincerely pray and ask Him for it. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

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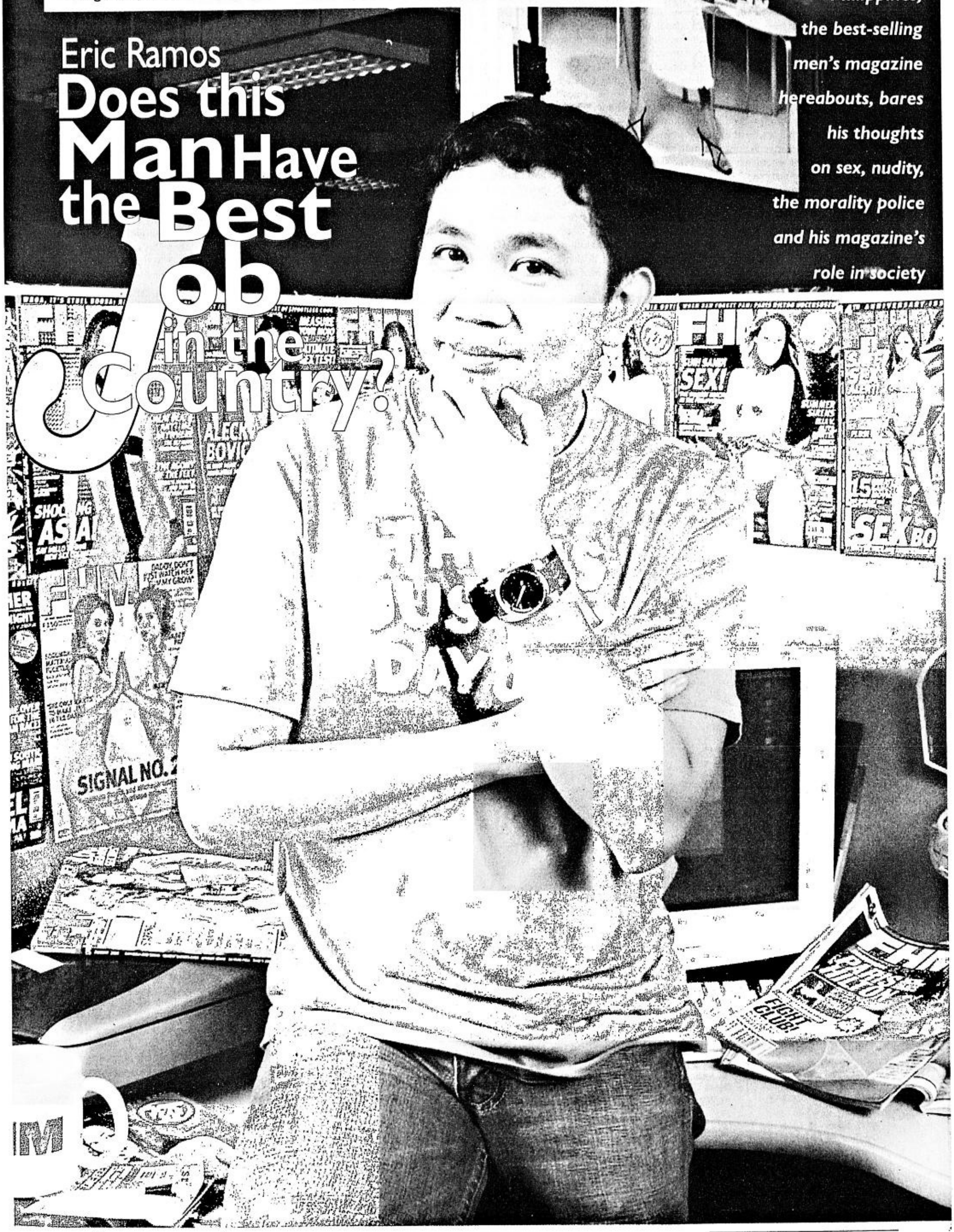
sunday INQUIRER
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
August 22, 2004

Eric Ramos Does this Man Have the Best Job in the Country?

The editor in chief of FHM Philippines, the best-selling men's magazine hereabouts, bares his thoughts on sex, nudity, the morality police and his magazine's role in society



By Ruel S. De Vera
Photographs by Romy Homillada

HE looks nothing like Hugh Hefner. Or Austin Powers. Or Larry Flynt. In fact, there's nothing outwardly flamboyant or raunchy about Eric Ramos, editor in chief of the controversial men's magazine, FHM Philippines (For Him Magazine, which started in Britain). Instead, the 34-year-old Ramos is given to long periods of thoughtful silence, deadpan remarks, a calming stillness, and economy of motion.

"People tell me I have the best job in the world," he says with a wry grin. "But they're surprised that I'm not that wild. Why am I so quiet, so ordinary, so harmless?"

But the magazine that Ramos edits is the hottest stuff on the newsstand, selling well over 100,000 copies a month. Now on its 50th issue in its fourth year, FHM Philippines has spawned a chorus line of competitors, none of which has matched its success. In this prudish Catholic country, FHM has apparently touched a nerve and then some. The magazine's volatile mix of skin and witty stories has

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Simply, Bishop Ochie
by Rina Jimenez David, *p.4*

Who's Afraid of Ninotchka Rosca?
by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz, *p.5*

Bec Bowls for Integrity
by Vincent Cabreza and Gobleth Moulic, *p.6*

Eric ...from page 1

shown as well that Ramos is anything but ordinary.

Enrique Velarde Ramos was born October 7, 1969 in Navotas, the eldest of three children to carpenter-fishing vessel contractor Domingo Ramos and the late Salvacion Velarde. He had, in his words, "a normal childhood" growing up in Malabon. A quiet child, Ramos read a lot even then, mainly *komiks* from the corner store. After grade school at the Santiago Syjuco Memorial School, he discovered books at St. James Academy, reading anything he got his hands on—but newspapers always came first. "Writing came naturally," Ramos says. "So I thought I would probably become a journalist, maybe a sports writer."

Which, of course, didn't happen. At the University of the Philippines, he first took up Accounting because his mother wanted him to, "but it turned out to be so wrong for me." He shifted to Creative Writing but didn't get to finish that either as he left school in his senior year. "I had too many extra-curricular activities," he explains. He was involved with the UP Repertory Company and the Philippine Collegian where he wrote movie and theater reviews for the Kultura section. "Very good training," he says.

Skin and pages

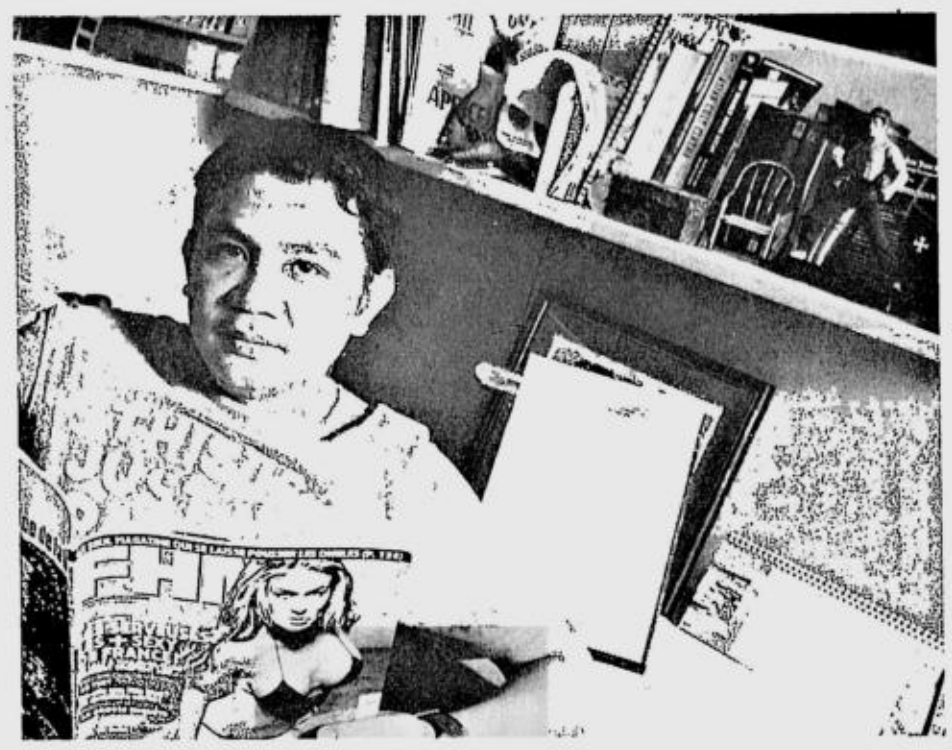
From there, Ramos signed up with the Gokongwei-owned Manila Times in 1992, and landed at the Entertainment section because it was the only section with an opening. Since he considered himself a movie buff, he thought it might work. Did it ever. He quickly worked his way to becoming Times Entertainment Editor and later, editor of the Sunday Times Magazine. He went down with the ship when, under pressure from the Estrada administration, the Times was closed down in 1999.

Even when he was with the Times, Ramos displayed a remarkable propensity for displaying female skin on his pages. "I thought it was a nice way to fill up a big page," he says. "Some women in the newsroom were offended, but they were also very open-minded," he recalls. Besides, Ramos adds, it's his personal belief that "women's bodies are fabulous."

So when the Gokongwei-owned Summit Publishing acquired the franchise for FHM, Ramos was a natural for the job. "The timing was perfect," he says. "I just had a month's vacation before my job interview for FHM, during which time the filming of my screenplay had begun."

He is talking about The Screenplay, which comes with his considerable pedigree as a creative writer. Aside from being a fellow of the 1992 UP National Writers Workshop, Ramos won first prize in the Screenplay category of the 1998 Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature. His screenplay, "Azucena," was eventually produced by Reyna Films and directed by Carlitos Siguion-Reyna. The movie, with lead stars Ricky Davao, Glydel Mercado and Alessandra de Rossi, depicted tortured relationships as symbolized by the characters eating man's best friend. "Azucena" won the Grand Jury Prize at the San Diego Asian Film Festival, and was screened at film festivals in Bratislava, Calgary, Cleveland, Newport Beach, Palm Springs, Prague, Toronto, San Francisco, Seattle, Taiwan and Valladolid.

Ramos brings a literary and everyman sensibility to his men's mag



"It was very fulfilling even if the movie didn't make that much money," says Ramos of his trip to the Toronto Film Festival. "You're treated like a celebrity, with people asking for your autograph after seeing the movie."

But back to the job search: Ramos knew he had the inside track and indeed, Summit Publisher Lisa Gokongwei made him the offer a few days after the interview.

For the average guy

The funny thing was, he wasn't all that familiar with FHM. "I just knew it was British," he says. But he got acquainted with the magazine in a hurry. And he liked what he saw: "First, a no-brainer, are the pictures of sexy women. Then there's also the sensibility, the humor and the idea that it's for the average guy. I couldn't possible be the editor of a magazine like GQ or even Esquire. It would be too elitist for me. My sensibilities just aren't like that. I'm very *masa*."

From October 1999, Ramos went to work, making sure the writing was tight and that FHM Philippines would be different from its foreign counterparts. "For the premiere issue, you were doing two things. You were introducing a foreign brand, but you also wanted to make it clear that this will have a very Pinoy flavor."

In March 2000, the first issue of FHM Philippines came out, with an initial print run of 30,000. Alicia Silverstone was on the cover. Ramos went to the newsstand and observed how people would react to it. Well, some people thought it was a women's magazine because of the cover. Though the first issue didn't sell out, he wasn't worried. "I wasn't sure if the mix would fly with the audience, but I knew that if I could get the mix right in the first six issues, the magazine would take off."

At the start, it was a veritable 50-50 mix of foreign and local material. But Ramos has steadily shifted that balance in favor of that elusive Pinoy flavor. FHM Philippines' second issue had Sunshine Cruz on the cover. "I really wanted to have a local girl on the cover and I had to fight to get that. And it had a strong impact. When people saw that issue, they reacted right away. It was something else *talaga*." That issue also had what Ramos remembers as a "very memorable article about circumcision, a very Pinoy custom."

On a roll

Today, Ramos estimates that FHM Philippines only uses some 20 percent foreign material. "Maybe it's evolution, but I always suspected that the market would prefer local material."

Ramos notes that FHM was "on a roll" after the first six issues but says it really hit its stride with its first anniversary issue, with Angela Velez on the cover. FHM's breakthrough year was 2001, particularly the December issue, which had Dina Bonnevie as cover girl. Soon after came the Assunta de Rossi calendar. A month later, in January 2002, came the landmark cover of Jackie Forster and Joanne Quintas, the first time that FHM went into a second printing. Ramos says they printed a total of 60,000 copies of that one. There was no stopping FHM Philippines from then on, he says. Today, the average printing is 140,000 copies per issue, marking FHM as the country's best-selling glossy magazine.

FHM too has helped carved careers for its cover girls, featuring newcomers like Maui Taylor and Aubrey Miles and introducing Myles Hernandez (whom Ramos spotted while judging a school beauty pageant) and Sheree.

FHM's rise hasn't been without incident, however. Right from the start, it was attacked as pornography by the conservatives, something that's to be expected, says Ramos. "Any product dealing with sexy women and sexy articles would be labeled by some people automatically as porn. For some people, there's no debate. But I think you have to read FHM to see that you can't judge us by our cover. Today, one-third of our readers are women."

FHM, says Ramos, stands for "openness, freedom of speech, freedom of thought. It's that free space (that allows us) to discuss things that have a stigma."

A victim of success

But as the magazine's profile got higher, so did the scrutiny and the controversies become more intense. "We became a victim of our own success," rues Ramos. "When we stage events, 10,000 cameras are covering us, it's a big deal." At one FHM shindig, girls from Pegasus began pretending to be, uh, cunning linguists on stage, drawing negative reviews from several quarters. Ramos claims the FHM crew had no idea it was going to happen, and that they shut down the act when they saw where it was going. There was also that lawsuit on charges of grave scandal (subsequently dropped), arising from the Diana Zubiri pictorial on a Mandaluyong City flyover that reportedly stopped traffic. There was the supposed incident in Bohol between Taylor and photographer Xander Angeles (Never happened, claims Ramos).

Such moralistic speculations aren't helped any by the magazine's decidedly bolder tack. Initially playing coy, FHM has started baring breasts and bottoms. It's a deliberate move, says Ramos. "From the beginning, I wanted to push the envelope." After a year on the market, the time seems right, he says. But what you see now is as much nudity as you're going to get, he adds. "I think that full-frontal nudity will never happen in FHM; we're not Playboy. The idea behind FHM is for it to be the middle ground between GQ and Playboy. It's something you can read in public, not behind closed doors." Their disclaimer about FHM not being sold to minors, however remains, out of sensitivity to Philippine society, Ramos says.

A normal life

And he probably knows what he's talking about. Ramos' belief that the female body is beautiful began pretty early, he says, as he grew up in a household where sex was treated "as a normal part of life." Copies of Playboy and Penthouse were strewn around the house, and in high school, Ramos made sure to buy them. "It was part of growing up," he explains.

And yet he did not go to a brothel to lose his virginity—he lost it the old-fashioned way, to a girl he was with, in his late teens. "Not as early as I wished though," he sighs.

He's not about to worry about his reputation these days, says Ramos. He's fine with being public enemy number one to the morality police. "Okay *lang*. Those people will always go out of their way to find something that offends them. If it isn't me, it'll be someone else. If it's isn't FHM, it'll be something else." Ramos says that he's confident that he can "disarm" his enemies—or at least convince them *na hindi ako anak ng demonyo* (that I'm not the spawn of the devil)."

Although Ramos is the first to say that he separates his work from his personal life, he admits that he's been involved with some of the women who have appeared in his magazine's pages, though he doesn't name names. "I'm not married and I'm only human," he says. But those incidents are more the exceptions and there's no casting couch, he adds. He is currently seeing someone, a girl who accepts his job, he says. While his family and friends are as supportive, Ramos thinks his former teachers might disapprove. "We do get hate mail now and then *pero konti na lang* (not as many as before)."

The average issue of FHM Philippines is planned two months in advance, with the celebrity factor being an edge in selecting their cover, although they occasionally go for fresh faces. And no, the women receive no talent fees at all. "We don't slap people with money to take their clothes off," says Ramos. "You'd be surprised that there are so many women who want to be in the magazine."

Perhaps because nudity is only an option. "When I approach models, one of my first questions is how much are you willing to bare. It's a necessary question," he says. There's a balance of celebrity and skin: the more famous or hotter you are, the more clothing you're likely to get away with.

Still, there are some celebrities who have turned down FHM despite that option, among them divas Pops Fernandez and Regine Velasquez.

Different women

Despite all that skin, Ramos claims he hasn't reached the point of satiety. "There's saturation to a certain level," he admits, but his interest is constantly stoked. "It's different women all the time." And no, he laughs, his job hasn't affected his sex life.

But it might affect the Filipino youth's view of sex and women as sex objects, FHM detractors might say. Ramos disagrees. "I always say people in puberty are always looking for these things, on the Internet, in the movies. Young people will always be curious about sex and

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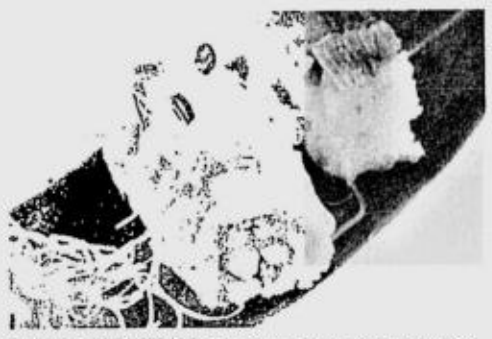

HAMO FESTIVAL Edsa Shangri-La's Nishiki displays the sophisticated art of Japanese cuisine in its Hamo (Japanese Eel) Festival until Aug. 31. Available for lunch and dinner, Chef Suzuki prepares Hamo as tempura, sarada (with Japanese vinegar), yahata maki (with goose liver sauce), shioyaki (with ponzu jelly), iridashi (deep-fried), to name a few. For reservations, call 633-8888 ext. 2738 and 2739. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

SHARING AND A NEW MATTRESS

The story of Remedios Bermas who opened her heart and hearth on a mission of mercy is both heartbreaking and heartwarming ("She Shelters the Homeless to Find Her Daughter," **SIM**, 8 August 2004). It underlines the virtue of sharing our lives and possessions, no matter how meager, with those who have less. What a touching example of true charity she is! She mentioned wishing to have a mattress as the one luxury she would like to have to ease her back pain. I would like to get in touch with the family, and enable them to purchase one for Remedios. I am not in a position to give her back her lost daughter, but would like to show my appreciation and joy at reading about a truly enviable person.

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Please contact the writer, Edna Flor delos Santos, at 0927-7111161.—Ed

HAPPY IN MIDDLE EARTH

I would like to relay my appreciation to the author of "Please Leave Home Without It" **(SIM**, 8 August 2004). She gives realistic/candid view and insights of life in this part of the world. NZ is not mere middle earth for its instant fans out there. It's definitely much more than that. To the author, my congratulations. And yes, I'm just an e-mail/phone call away should she need a *kababayan* to talk/write to during one of those days.

KIT CAZENAS-ONG
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I admire the person who wrote the article "Please Leave Home Without It," I agree with her 100 percent. I have lived in the States for 20 years and I still experience this kind of attitude from our *kababayans* here in the US. They are still *mabusisi* about your private life even though they've lived in the States for a long time. I hope this article opens the eyes of our *kababayans* in foreign lands and those about to embark to a foreign country. Thanks for publishing this wonderful article. Kudos again to the writer.

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Everythin's Cookin' at Godskitchen with Addict Mobile

Well, the rain's been pouring, darlings; it's natural to curl up snug and warm at home. It takes only a fantabulous Addict Mobile event to get us out there, raving to dance away. It's well known, really, the names Addict Mobile powered by SMART, and BigFish are reason enough to get off our shag carpets and be part of the tribal dance scene once again.

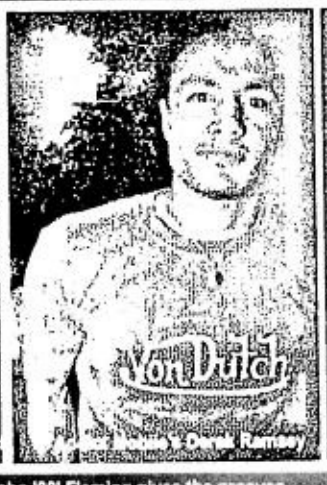
I myself admit to taking a brief sabbatical, waiting nearly too long for the latest Addict Mobile grand fete. And was it worth it darlings! Godskitchen GlobalDance 2004, with the partymeisters of BigFish at the controls was the exclamation point needed to glam up an otherwise dour rainy season. Let the winds blow and the thunder roar, darlings! They are divine enhancements to the most upscale party people on the planet, all tres connected with Addict Mobile.

What warmth, what adulation, what applause, darlings! It was heady right from BigFish's DJ TC's now legendary warm-up set style leading up to the grand climax, Godskitchen DJ John '00' Fleming, magna producer at Joof Recordings and whose "Global Trance Grooves" is the hottest show on the Ministry of Sound Radio Network. And get this, darlings, even biggies Paul Oakenfold, Tiesto and Armin Van Buren heap on the praise for this titanic force in modern dance music. Oh we should be so lucky! Keep up the thunder, Addict Mobile! And we'll all be dancing in the rain…

Addict Mobile's Bea... and Tim Yep

Big Fish's Dj TC and John '00' Fleming

Kristine Hermosa



Patrick Garcia

Michael Gallagher &

Tessa Dragon & Cristina Dragon-Locsin

Tina Daniac, LC, HO, Jedd Tan & Jerrie Tan

Dj John '00' Fleming gives the grooves.

A night with Addict Mobile.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

People of the Faith

By Rina Jimenez David

Simply, Bishop Ochie

His parents and siblings have made a bet that he wouldn't last five years in the priesthood. Some 25 years later, Bishop Oscar Solis has become the first Philippine-born Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles. Thankfully, the weight of his office has hardly changed this light-hearted small-town native

TALL, lanky and with an elongated face, the seminarian Oscar Solis was nicknamed "Tirso Cruz III" by his classmates at the University of Sto. Tomas Central Seminary.

"Ah, but when I was on the basketball court, they called me Ramon Fernandez!" he recalls with a laugh today. So avid a basketball player was he that the Seminary Rector, calling him to his office because his grades started slipping, chided the young Solis for his misplaced priorities. "I hear that you've been studying basketball and playing theology!" he was told.

These days, with knee trouble putting an end to his days on the court, Solis might prefer being dubbed "Tiger Woods"—he wishes—since he has taken up golf for recreation. Told that he should try the local golf courses during his visit, Solis admits that he is "dying to play golf," though he very much doubted if his tight schedule would allow a game or two. "I haven't had much time for relaxing, I feel like I came here for Lent!" he mock-complains.

There is a good reason for the packed agenda, the warm welcome and his newfound celebrity status. With his ordination as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles last February 10, Oscar Azarcon Solis became the first Philippine-born bishop in the United States. Many Filipinos and Filipino-Americans have taken his ordination to the episcopacy as a sign of the growing importance of Filipinos in the life of the Catholic Church in the US. Bishop Solis himself prefers to downplay his Filipino identity, preferring to see his appointment as recognition by the hierarchy of the increasing role of Asian-Americans in the Catholic community.

A newfound status

To his family, the new appointment means adjusting to his newfound status and celebrity, though it doesn't seem to have altered in any way their own relationship to him. Requested by photographers at the airport to kiss the bishop's hand upon his arrival, his sister Celia Tapia, the eldest in the family, replied indignantly: "I'm older than him, I shouldn't be kissing his hand!"

The biggest adjustment for his family has been one of terminology, shifting from "Father Ochie," which has been his nickname from childhood, to "Bishop Ochie."

Born in San Jose, Nueva Ecija, Solis is the fourth of seven children of Anselmo and Antonia Solis, both of whom are deceased. Celia, the eldest sibling, is a nutritionist married to retired banker Antonio Tapia with whom she has two children. The second sister, Helen, an accountant, is single and lives with Celia. The oldest boy, Willie, was stabbed to death at the age of 18. Another boy, Honey, who was born after Bishop Ochie, drowned when he was only five years old. The youngest sister, Angie Pacubas, is a dentist and lives in San Jose, California, while the youngest boy, Ronald is also a priest who heeded a late vocation and now serves with the Opus Dei in Hong Kong.

Though he was an altar server in his boyhood and had many "good role models" among the priests in town, Solis doesn't remember feeling any strong call to the priesthood. "My mother was the one who really had the vocation," he jokes. He entered the Minor Seminary when he was only 11, and remembers only that "life inside with friends my age was a lot of fun," even if he confesses that all through his adolescence "I didn't really know the meaning of priesthood."

After graduation from the Maria Assumpta Seminary in Cabanatuan, Ochie was sent by the local bishop to study at the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay under the SVD Fathers where he obtained his philosophy degree, and was then sent to the UST Central Seminary to study under the Dominicans. Despite his obsession with basketball, Solis managed to obtain his theology degree, *cum laude*, and in 1979 was ordained a priest in his hometown of San Jose.

It was a seemingly easy path to the priesthood, as his scholarships to prestigious institutions prove that Solis's superiors, especially his bishop, had confidence in his academic abilities and belief in his promise. In fact, soon after his ordination, he was allowed to return to Manila to pursue post-graduate studies in oriental religions and cultures.

A messianic complex

Upon his return to Nueva Ecija, Solis was set on a path that seemed clearly marked for the academic and administrative track. Instead of being assigned to a parish, he was assigned as dean of students and later Rector of his alma mater, Maria Assumpta Seminary, while serving as chaplain and teaching philosophy at the Araullo Lyceum University.

In 1984, as a 30-year-old priest with "a messianic complex," Solis says he was "burnt out and feeling frustrated and no longer seeing eye-to-eye" with his bishop. ("He's passed away, so let's not mention his name anymore," he pleads.) To get away from an increasingly untenable situation, Solis sought and was given permission to take up further studies in Canon Law in Rome. But before reaching the Eternal City, he decided to pass by the US and, without knowing it, set off on the path that led to his becoming an auxiliary bishop of perhaps the largest archdiocese in the United States.

Bishop Ochie (seated) at his ordination as Auxiliary Bishop of L.A.

AP PHOTO

Shortly after his arrival in the US, Solis took up an offer to serve as associate pastor in St. Rocco's Parish in Union City, New Jersey, in the Archdiocese of Newark. The parish was "60 percent Italian and 40 percent Hispanic," Solis recalls of his four years in New Jersey. "They had a wonderful Italian-American pastor and it was while I was serving under him that I fell in love with pastoral work." Abandoning his scholastic ambitions, Solis decided that his true calling was as a parish priest.

Opportunity comes

The opportunity came in 1988 when Fr. Caesar Silva, a Filipino priest serving in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux in Southern Louisiana, invited Fr. Solis to lunch with Msgr. Francis Amedee, pastor of St. Joseph's Pro-Cathedral. Seeing the need for more priests in the diocese, Msgr. Amedee had convinced Bishop Warren Boudreaux to allow him to actively recruit possible pastors, including foreigners. Impressed with Solis, Amedee paved the way for his transfer to Louisiana.

"I love them!" is Solis' unabashed declaration when asked his feelings for the people of Louisiana. The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux lies in Cajun country, a string of "bedroom communities" for workers who commute to and from the cities of New Orleans and Baton Rouge. The Louisiana State University is also located there.

"It's a relatively prosperous area but quite rural in its values," Solis describes his place of assignment. "It's still very peaceful there, people don't lock their doors at night. They have strong family values and the Church plays an important role in the community. The people still look up to the priests. It felt so much like home. Why, they even eat rice!"

Solis describes himself as "basically a friendly person" and "blessed in my ability to integrate myself" even among strangers. This may be the reason he never felt discriminated against, he says, though "out of a deep respect for the native clergy," he declares that he "never asked for any position or promotion." When he expressed this sentiment to other priests, he recalls, they exclaimed: "Why, Oscar, you are one of us, you shouldn't see yourself as being different!" So at home did Solis feel in Louisiana that in 1999 he finally obtained American citizenship.

Center of lives

In all, Solis would serve 15 years in Houma-Thibodaux, as associate pastor in St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral, then pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Golden Meadow, then back to St. Joseph as pastor.

As a parish priest, Solis found himself smack in the center of people's lives, presiding over milestones like baptism and confirmation, first communion, weddings and funerals. "What I really enjoyed about my assignment was that the area was full of families with very young children, giving me a chance to watch them grow up and start families of their own. What could be more flattering to a priest, but to be asked to preside over the weddings of children whom you have baptized?" These days, even as he finds himself re-assigned to Los Angeles, Solis finds his desk filled with letters from Louisiana asking him to go back there and preside over weddings of former parishioners, accompanied by staples like jambalaya or "dirty rice" sent by express delivery.

During his early years as associate pastor at St. Joseph's, Solis became the moderator of over 90 altar boys, an unusually large number even for Houma-Thibodaux. "Some parents asked me why I didn't have any altar girls, but I had to explain that I already had a hard time accommodating the boys, we were using as many as nine servers for each Sunday Mass!" Seven years later, returning to St. Joseph as pastor, Solis found that some of his original altar boys had made the trip from their college campuses just to serve at his installation. "I called them my altar goons, because they had all become so big!"

The love that Solis felt for the people and church of Louisiana did not go unreciprocated. A wealthy parishioner of St. Joseph's had included in her will a bequest to the diocese and the Cathedral to use as they wished. With the bishop's permission, it was decided that part of the money would be sent to each diocese where the five Filipino priests serving in Houma-Thibodaux had come from. Each diocese was given $50,000, for a total of $250,000, with the Filipino bishops promising that they would use the money for priestly vocations.

As Msgr. Amedee told the "Bayou Catholic": "I felt an obligation because they were coming to us. By giving their former dioceses money we were helping the missions."

Solis's Louisiana idyll would be broken last December when he received a phone call from Los Angeles informing him that the Vatican had approved his appointment as auxiliary bishop. "I had no idea I was even being considered!" he recalls. "It was a tremendous shock," he describes his feelings at the time. "My staff tells me that when I stepped out of my office, I was pale and trembling and at first they worried that someone in my family had died."

Immensity

He had reason for his fears. "What frightened me most about serving in L.A. was its immensity," he confides. The total number of Catholics in his old diocese, he says, stands at around 175,000, while there are no fewer than 12 million Catholics in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles which covers three counties—Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara—the last considered one of the most prosperous counties in the US.

During his ordination as bishop, Bishop Ochie's brother, Fr. Ronald, and Msgr. Amedee served as his chaplains, walking alongside him and presenting him to Cardinal Roger Mahoney. "I always knew he was very special and destined for leadership in the church," Msgr. Amedee would later say.

Bishop Solis takes his place as one of five auxiliary bishops in Los Angeles, charged with coordinating pastoral efforts to integrate all ethnic groups within the Archdiocese while recognizing and respecting their unique traditions and customs. Asked to give an example of how various ethnic groups celebrate the Liturgy, he notes: "Among African-Americans, you gotta have soul! There must be lively music and even dancing. Korean-Americans are more formal and ritualistic. While among Filipino-Americans, there must always be lots of food!"

Another special charge that Solis has received from Cardinal Mahoney is the generation of new vocations, especially among the Filipino-American community. "We need to work with families," Solis notes, "because it is only the parents who can plant the idea of a priestly or religious vocation in the minds of their sons or daughters." An "optimist by nature," Solis believes that after years of seeming decline, the Catholic Church is "entering a new age of hope." Far from mistrusting the new information technology, he is inclined to embrace it, fascinated by "its potential for evangelization."

Play a part

In his new posting, Solis will undoubtedly play a large part in bringing the American Church —and the church as a whole—up to speed not just with technology but with a rapidly changing society. "It's all Divine Providence," he says of his historic appointment. "I haven't done anything special, and there are holier, more intelligent priests. I don't try to second guess God. My attitude is, 'Thy will be done.'"

During his ordination, Solis recalls, all his male relatives including his father were placing bets on how long he would last in the priesthood. "I heard that the longest anyone was willing to bet on was five years," he says with a laugh. Well, he just celebrated his 25th year as a priest last April, back in Louisiana, surrounded by his siblings and relatives, and the huge "family" he has gathered around him over the past two decades. He may downgrade his own qualifications for his present responsibilities, but he certainly doesn't mind being known, simply, as "Bishop Ochie."

The Writer's Life

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Who's Afraid of Ninotchka Rosca?

She's been variously described as a political renegade, a sexual outlaw, a Leftist gadfly. But why can't people just read my books, complains this multi-awarded novelist whose latest book subject, Jose Ma. Sison, is as controversial as she is

ROMY HOMILLADA

Mural painted by Miranda Bergman, Terry Forman, Taraka Goodman-Robinson, Susie Lundy, Elizabeth Malaska, Marina Perez-Wong, Jane Segal and Marlene Tobias

HER reputation precedes her. Exiled writer Ninotchka Rosca has variously been described as a "political and sexual outlaw," "an unpolished character," a formidable foe, an acerbic feminist and a headstrong activist who has "always preserved a love-hate relationship with the Left."

Among the other stories circulating about this author, who's in town for the launch of her book on controversial National Democratic Front consultant Jose Ma. Sison, are:

- "Her real name isn't even Ninotchka as in the Greta Garbo movie; it's something infinitely more ordinary but then, she's always had a flair for the dramatic;"
- "She's had romantic liaisons with other women;"
- "She wanted to get back with her ex so badly she threatened to commit suicide on the eve of his wedding to a fellow activist; the wedding was scuttled."

Not true, she says with amazed laughter, a tad too laid-back considering the firebrand label. In fact, adds Ninotchka, in her office in California hangs a big sign that sums up her temperament: "Extremely mild-mannered unless provoked." She explains, "If I believe I'm right, *magunaw na ang mundo* (the world may end), but you cannot move me."

Then again the vicious digs at her reputation as a woman are not surprising, she adds. "It is the establishment's way of trying to diminish the value of a woman's voice and devalue her achievements." When she was briefly detained in Crame in 1972 at the onset of martial rule, Ninotchka (her real name) recalls being interrogated about her ties to the radical group, Kabataang Makabayan (KM). "But all the military asked were details on free love that the KM was supposedly espousing. Why are they so obsessed with that?"

Admittedly though, Ninotchka's bohemian past is the stuff of teledramas that grows with each retelling. Born in Laguna to middle-class merchant parents, she says she can't tell just how many siblings she has. "Well, you know how men are, they have multiple families," she shrugs. A product of both public and Catholic schools, she went on to take up Comparative Literature and promptly created a flap the moment she entered the University of the Philippines. "I didn't know it at that time, but freshmen weren't supposed to join this literary contest which I won," recounts Ninotchka. Flabbergasted but putting up a gallant front, the more senior campus writers invited this upstart to hang out with them at the UP Writers Club. It was there that she met Prof. Luis Teodoro, who would become a longtime partner, and who in turn introduced her to Jose Ma. Sison.

Meeting Joe

"I could feel (Joma Sison) eyeing me and apparently wanting to ask me a question, but I played coy," Ninotchka recalls of her initial meeting with "Joe," by then a visiting professor from Lyceum who had come for a meeting of the UP Writers Club. Sison was a UP Literature major himself.

About 30 seconds later, he finally asked her: "What will you do if there was a revolution?" She countered: "Why? What would happen to writers if there's a new political system?" Sison answered: "Well, they'll be given a salary by the state because they're considered as major contributors to the country." Ninotchka remembers saying, "Oh, in that case, I'm interested."

Before she left, she overhead a disappointed Sison telling Teodoro: "*Interesado lang pala siya sa* salary (so she's only interested in the salary)..."

It was an inauspicious beginning and the founder of Kabataang Makabayan who also re-established the Communist Party of the Philippines in 1968 did not become Ninotchka's political mentor. She leaned heavily on books by Mikhail Sholokhov, Lu Hsun, Andre Malraux, Jean Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir for her political awakening. "I even wanted to get married to Sartre so I could be Simone de Beauvoir," she chuckles.

Instead she had a relationship with Teodoro with whom she has a son. She has a daughter with another partner. She and Teodoro eventually split up. "We reached the end of a relationship, but not of affection," says Ninotchka. Relationships, she explains, "have a lifespan." She pauses, making a face: "Oh, but he'll kill me for saying this!" She hastens to add of her ex: "But he's a very good person, and one of the best editors around. Only three people were allowed to edit me and that included Nick Joaquin and him. He can clean up your prose without disturbing your sense of rhythm in writing."

Moving on

And that alleged suicide threat when he was about to marry another woman? Ninotchka rolls her eyes. "Do I look like someone who's going to kill herself over a man?" She adds: "His relationship with (other women) is personal, it's between them. Why are people blaming me?" But all that's 20 years ago, could we move on to another topic please? she begs.

Wait, what about those rumors on her getting it on with women? "I wish," she sighs. "I'm with women all the time it would have been so convenient." Ninotchka, a staunch feminist, is a founding member of the Gabriela Network in the U.S., and the spokesperson of its Purple Rose anti-trafficking of women campaign. "Unfortunately, I'm firmly heterosexual. But why don't people just f....ng read my books?" she adds in exasperation.

Maybe because her relationships sound much more colorful, especially that with the Left. In "The History of Filipino Women's Writings," editor Riitta Vartti quotes Dolores Feria: "(Ninotchka) founded several leftist organizations but was bounced out of many of them perhaps because of her unpolished character. Never prone to bow before any authorities...(she) has always preserved a love-hate relationship with the Left." Ninotchka agrees with that last observation. "It's like being with a person. You don't always like him, sometimes you want to kill him. But there's essential unity between myself and the Left. I've never attacked the Left. I recognize its very important role in our society." Her strange relationship with the Left, she adds, "is part of the struggle for democratic principles in every aspect of our life."

Going freelance

Bowing to authorities is apparently another struggle for Ninotchka who proudly declares that she was fired from her first job (at the Philippine Graphic Magazine) for getting involved in union activities. After that, she went freelance, "and found that I could earn much more!"

Martial law put an end to that lucrative career. Eschewing the option of going underground ("Because I was physically incapable of doing it,"), Ninotchka was surprised when the military arrested her. "I wasn't even involved in organizing; I was just freelancing as a writer." But the military was rounding up members of the media and for the next "totally boring" six months, Ninotchka shared jail space with some 300 of them. She was tortured, "just a bit, mainly because military rule was just starting and the military had yet to master their machinery." But on the eve of her release, she learned about the first casualty of martial law: Liliosa Hilao, a student activist. "They raped her and poured muriatic acid down her throat."

In 1977, tipped off that the government was going to file charges against her in a military tribunal, Ninotchka moved to the US, where she initially earned a living teaching and organizing Filipinos in Hawaii. New York-based, she has moved to San Francisco for a project and keeps busy doing the lecture circuit and churning out books. Her second novel, "Twice Blessed," won the American Book Award for Excellence in Literature in 1993. Her first, "State of War" was given the National Book Award by the Manila Critics' Circle in 1988. Aside from two short story collections ("Bitter Country" and "Monsoon Collection"), she has also written nonfiction, "Endgame: The Fall of Marcos," and the Sison biography, "Jose Maria Sison: At Home in the World," recently launched by IBON Books.

Where credit is due

Ninotchka started writing the Sison book in 2001 after, she says, an assassination attempt on Joma in Utrecht. "He thought it was a good time to sum up his life, and I thought it was time that Filipinos gave credit where credit is due," she says. She was not particularly close to the man so she was surprised to be tapped for the book. Why me? she had asked NDF stalwart Fidel Agcaoili, and he answered, "Who else? Others would be too reverential, others too hostile. *Ikaw*, you can argue with Joma or agree with him and still be objective."

So for two months, Ninotchka lived with Sison and his wife, Julieta de Lima in Utrecht, the Netherlands, to discover for herself how the man, whom she describes as "a living legend," goes about his quotidian life. "I wanted to see the couple in their daily routine, to observe how they mesh and how they separate. It was very interesting."

But would people still be interested to read about Joma? Is the man still relevant especially since even his former colleagues in the Left have run for public office and joined the parliamentary struggle?

Says Ninotchka. "If you grew up at a time when there was no opposition to western ideas, you'd appreciate Joma. He made us examine the context of our existence in this country in terms of history."

The right answer

That history definitely includes the 1971 Plaza Miranda bombing that some quarters have laid squarely at Joma's doorstep. What does Joma have to say about that in her book? "He denies it," says Ninotchka. She adds, "But really, why does this issue keep coming back? And the story keeps changing according to what's convenient at the moment. Okay, nine people died and we were traumatized by it, *pero di na ba tayo pwedeng makaalis dyan*? Can't we move on?" She continues: "There's a principle in Physics that says, 'The answer that does not create more questions is the right answer.' In this case, Marcos is the right answer (to who's behind the Plaza Miranda bombing.)"

But is the concept of revolution that her subject has been espousing still relevant? Says Ninotchka: "The revolution for me is an expression of great creativity among people who want to shape society according to their vision. And the parliamentary struggle is part of that. It was Lenin himself who said that to struggle for democratic rights is to advance the revolution."

From her vantage point, is there a chance that the Left will win its struggle for national democracy? "Well, I hope so," muses Ninotchka. "But it really doesn't matter to me. If you look back at our history, you will note that everything degrading and humiliating has been

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All in the Game

By Vincent Cabreza
and Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bec Bowls for Integrity

Bec (left) with daughter Elizabeth

EV ESPIRITU

REBECCA "Bec" Watanabe, one of the country's rising stars in bowling in 1982, stepped into her office at the Philippine Sports Commission's (PSC) compound at the Teachers' Camp in Baguio City in July, only to discover that PSC had no more need of her.

It was *déjà vu* for this multi-awarded bowler.

On February 27 this year, Watanabe also received a memorandum advising her that her term as PSC sports development officer had been abruptly terminated. Former national swimmer and now PSC Chair Eric Buhain immediately rescinded both retrenchment notices within a day, but Watanabe found no solace in her reinstatement. She recalls how she had earned her bowling trophies during a time when honor, not politics, dictated how Phlippine sports should be run.

But these days, Watanabe says she has realized how politics has made the lives of Filipino athletes more complicated, whether on the bowling alleys or behind office desks. Too bad, because politics thrives on perpetual conflict.

A frank, uncompromising woman of 49, Watanabe says she had been outspoken about bureaucratic changes within the PSC Baguio training center. The center made the headlines last year when a PSC commissioner faced sexual harassment charges from a female utility worker. A Baguio prosecutor eventually dismissed the charges. But the case set off a petition to oust PSC Baguio manager Manuel Bitog.

The controversy, Watanabe believes, may have been the reason behind the termination notices. "Some people may have assumed I was part of the group who petitioned for Bitog's ouster after the sexual harassment case was settled," she says.

Fortunately, says Watanabe, she survived the threats to unseat her because her experience as a sports icon taught her to overcome conflicts, even if some of them were trivial.

Premature retirement

But it's a world she thought she had already given up. In 1998, Watanabe let go of her ambitions to win the Bowling World Cup when she retired prematurely from the tenpin circuit on the request of a 10-year-old girl. "I was with the national team when my youngest daughter, Elizabeth, goes, 'Ma, *lagi kang nawawala sa bahay. Di mo na ako nakikita, lumalaki na ako.*' (Mom, you're always out of the house. You don't see me anymore and I am growing up.)"

Multi-awarded bowler Bec Watanabe found herself facing a formidable foe years after she retired from active sports: politics and the endless intrigues that go with it

Before that, Watanabe, a mother of four, had managed to balance her sports career with her maternal role. Except for Elizabeth, now 16, most of her children are grown up and living their own lives. Says this bowler: "I had to choose my priorities. My family is more important than my career."

Baguio's crowd of fortysomethings and fiftysomething remember Watanabe, a Batangas native who grew up and studied in Baguio, as a favorite subject of party chatter in town. She became a Baguio celebrity for making the national team in 1982 at the age of 29, breaking splits and scoring strikes alongside bowling giants Bong Coo and Paeng Nepomuceno.

Beating giants

In 1984, she beat Nepomuceno, her idol, in the Al-Jeddah invitational tournament. Sportswriter Chito Manuel praised Watanabe for beating Nepomuceno in "a male-dominated sport." She was later proclaimed Athlete of the Century by the Baguio City government in 2000.

Says Watanabe: "To get yourself (elected to) the national team is already an achievement. In 1982, I was the rookie in the national team. Our goal was to win the Southeast Asian games, the Asian games, the Bowling Olympics, (and) the Bowling World Cup."

Her single biggest ambition in life, she says, was to win the Bowling World Cup. "For four years, I could only manage to land second (in the World Cup elimination rounds). But in the 1986 World Cup in Copenhagen, I finally got the slot to compete. My male counterpart was Paeng Nepomuceno, my idol." recalls Watanabe.

She adds: "Just seeing myself with other competitors was truly a wish come true. And climbing up to second place made things even more meaningful. Paeng also ended up second in the male division. (A Swedish pair took the top crown). Although not highly recognized by our sports commission then, (that World Cup stint) was my most cherished event," she says.

By leaving bowling in 1998, Watanabe says she had to remind herself that she had already sacrificed one life for the game. She was taking up commerce in the 1970s but had to leave it behind when she married a Japanese expatriate. "Being pregnant while in college just won't work for me," she says.

Although she eventually separated from her husband, it was he who introduced Watanabe to bowling and nourished her passion for the sport.

Keeping Bec busy

"House chores and raising the children had kept me busy in the early years of my marriage." she recalls. But sometime in 1978, their Japanese houseguests asked to go bowling. "We had a six-lane, tenpin alley at Camp John Hay," recounts Watanabe. "I got my ball, started rolling it on the lanes, (and discovered that) it was exciting and fun."

It was an auspicious start. Says Watanabe: "I am a southpaw, and I don't feel awkward (about) using my left hand. I kept going. I rolled the ball and made several strikes. My scores kept getting higher every time," she adds.

But those scores seem trivial now, after the shoddy way that the PSC has treated her, says Watanabe. "I never expected to be given special treatment just because I was (a title-holding) bowler. But knowing what I've achieved, knowing what I've given this country, it just didn't seem fair for PSC to play politics with my government career," she says.

Her fallback has always been her children, says Watanabe. She was mulling her firing in February, when Elizabeth graduated valedictorian from her high school.

It is the one triumph that no medal can top, and no intrigues nor politics can tarnish, notes Watanabe. It is with her family that she scores the most number of strikes, says this bowler. Q

Poetry

Alalahanin

Halaw kay William Butler Yeats, na humalaw kay Pierre de Ronsard

Kung gatla sa mukha mo'y di na mabilang
at iniisip mo ang aliw na nagdaan,
ang ningas ng lumipas na kabaliwan
na gumigiyagis pa rin sa kalamnan-

basahin po lamang itong aking tula
at alalahanin ang dating talinghaga
na nagpainit sa ngiti mo at luha
at gumayuma sa dibdib mong nagitla;

at alalahanin din ang manlalakbay
na namahinga, kahit panandalian,
sa iyong mapagpaubayang kandungan,
bagamat bagabag ang iniwang alay.

Ngayon ay abo na ang liyab at silakbo,
at ngayon ay taludtod ang tinutunghayan mo.

Jose F. Lacaba

ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!

SIM strives to pay our valued contributors within three weeks of publication of an article or poem. However, to facilitate preparation of your fees — and to avoid an unnecessary trip! — please give the Cashier a call at tel. no. 897-8808 local 533 to confirm if your check is ready before visiting. Many thanks and keep them coming!

Who's Afraid ...from page 5

done to us as a people. You either learn to accept that or you continue to resist. Because to resist is a matter of self- respect and dignity. It's how you want your life to be shaped."

Tough issues aside, it was a difficult book to write, says Ninotchka. "Joma is an alpha male who's used to being in command. And I'm an alpha female. In writing the book, I had to make sure that my voice will not be lost."

What did she learn about the man in the course of writing the book? "That he loves his comrades absolutely. In this memorial for Tony Zumel, he couldn't finish reading a statement about the guy. Somebody had to take over," recounts Ninotchka. "What else? Well, definitely *me apog siya* (he's got gumption). When the European parliament called him a terrorist, he sued them and demanded damages because they had tarnished his reputation. He's not one to be intimidated, no matter who the enemy. That's the Sison Way."

"Tons of Romance"

Her hectic schedule so far only allows for a yoga break, she says. Sure, she's had "tons of romance, but no commitment." Shrugs Ninotchka: "I don't know what happened. There was this guy that I found extremely attractive two years ago, but recently, I just passed right by him, I couldn't even remember his name! I told myself, okay, time to write another book."

Although she confesses to being intimidated by the thought of putting herself out there by launching another book "and feeling so obligated to the public," Ninotchka says she is finishing her next novel. Already, she's negotiating movie rights for "Broken Symmetry."

Going back to the old country is not yet an option. "I'm a mild-mannered person but when I watched 'Imelda' in the US, I had to run out of the room and started kicking the walls," Ninotchka recounts. "I was just so angry! *Bakit humihinga pa ang mga taong ito?* (How can these people still live?) So many people were killed and none was held accountable for them. Nobody paid for the death of Liliosa, of Ninoy Aquino, of Dr. Bobby dela Paz, Johnny Escandor...I don't know if I can settle back in a country that allows the likes of Imelda to flourish. I'd probably be angry all the time," says this writer who confesses to reading Don Quixote when she was 7 and being enamored by the idea of "tilting at windmills."

Born aggressive

Still, she does miss mangoes a lot, confesses Ninotchka. "I keep remembering Joma's poem, 'Sometimes the heart yearns for mangoes...' But when my sister took me to Rustan's to buy some, I only found Dole mangoes. I wanted to email Joe and tell him, hey there's nothing to come home to, not even mangoes." She adds: "This is what globalization has been doing to us—giving us a mass culture and mangoes of standard sizes and taste!"

If it sounds like Ninotchka takes everything so seriously, you're probably half right. By her own admission, she was born aggressive. "My *yaya* used to tell people when I was young that I was born old," she says with a laugh. "Personally, I like to think of myself as—to paraphrase that line—just another lonely writer walking the world with a leaky umbrella."

So how old would that writer with the leaky umbrella be now? She giggles, "Can I be 30? I love being 30, I was going blazes! I'm still waiting to see what I'll be when I grow up!" Q

The next launching of "Jose Maria Sison: At Home in the World" by IBON books is on Aug. 24, 5 to 7 p.m., at Bahay Kalinaw, UP Diliman, Quezon City

Art

The Boston Gallery showcases simultaneous one-man exhibits of **Raymar Gacutan** at the Lower Gallery, **Erwin Leaño** at the Upper Gallery, **Jim Orencio** at the Gallery Mezzanine, and **Jose John Santos III** at Gallery Alcove until Aug. 31. Boston Gallery is located at 72, Boston St., Cubao, QC.

Entry Points festures five large-scale canvases as well as numerous small-scale works by Alvin Villaruel at Magnet Gallery Makati, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas corner Sedeno Sts., Makati City until Sept. 1. For details, call 817-7895.

Jim Orencio's "Figure 2," on view at the Boston Gallery

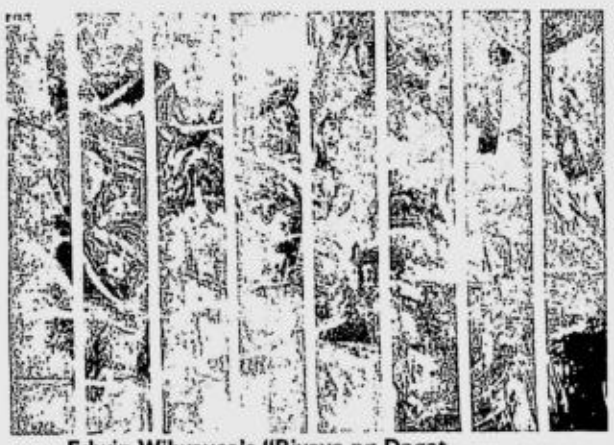
Whispering Winds, a solo exhibit by Edwin C. Wilwayco, until Sept. 3 at Galleria Duemila, 4/L, SM Megamall A. For details, call 633-6687.

Abstract painter JPalencia presents his latest works in the **Harmonics** series at Gallery 139, 3/F, Glorietta 4, Makati City. It will run from Aug. 27 to Sept. 8.

Saan Ka Nanggaling, Saan Ka Darating, a restrospective exhibit by Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, until Sept. 10 at Hiraya Gallery, 530 UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila. For details, call 523-3331.

Music

The **Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation** celebrates its 20th anniversary with a special concert on Aug. 28, 6 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Avenue cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Makati. Among the highlights are performances by the Philippine Madrigal Singers and 11-year-old pianist Regina Montesclaros. Excerpts to be shown are from "Saludo Filipino," a ballet show featuring works of Filipino choreographers, the "Company of Ateneo Dancers" show, a production featuring ballet, jazz and street dances, and "Tango!," a concert featuring the music of Astor Piazzolla. For inquiries, call 878-4358 to 59.



Edwin Wilwayco's "Biyaya ng Dagat II," on view at Galleria Duemila

Into the Jungle, a concert featuring the University of Asia and the Pacific Chorale with choirmaster Arwin Tan, on Aug. 29, 5 p.m. at the Philamlife Auditorium. For ticket inquiries, call Ms Puyat at 0917-8334564.

Ryan Regino spices up your August nights with his renditions of timeless ballads and R&B hits at Pier One Roxas (Mondays), Pier One Tomas Morato (Tuesdays, Pier One The Fort (Wednesdays), and at Okavango River Park (Saturdays). For inquiries, call 0917-8470663.

Cinema

pelikula@titusbrandsma presents **Paul Verhoeven Retrospective** featuring "Turkish Delight" (1973), "The Fourth Man" (1979) and "Spetters" (1980) on August 28 at 1 p.m. at the UP Film Institute Videotheque, UP Diliman, Quezon City. For details, call 926-3640.

On-stage

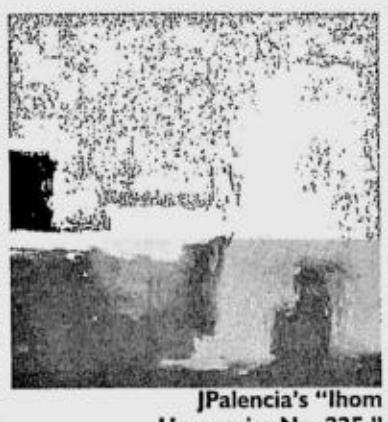
UP Playwright's Theater's production of Floy Quintos' **Fluid** returns to the Teatro Hermogenes Ylagan at the UP Faculty Center. It is a sardonic peek into the lives of Filipino painters, theater people, musicians and other artists as they try to survive in a world of compromise and patronage. The play runs on Aug. 22 and 28 (3 and 7 p.m.), Aug. 25-27 at 7 p.m. For tickets, call 926-1349 or 920-5301 loc. 6441.

The Dulaang UP will stage Aristophanes' **Lysistrata** as its second play for its 29th Theater Season. Fed up with war-torn Greece, Aristophanes writes this comedy as his plea for peace. The play will run from September 1-19 in both English and Filipino translations at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, Palma Hall, UP Diliman. For details, call 926-1349 or 920-5301 loc. 6441.

Atbp

Art Informal is a new arts education center that offers comprehensive, hands-on art workshops by professional painters, sculptors, writers and educators. It offers the following workshops all-year round in beginner to advanced levels: For adults: Art Materials Workshop, Oil Painting, Acrylic painting, Watercolor Painting, Drawing (Basic, Portrait and Figure), Sculpture (Basic, Relief and Portrait Busts), Art as Therapy, Pastel Drawing and Art Appreciation. For children: Arts and Crafts, Toddlers Camp, Pastel Drawing, Watercolor Painting, Beginners' Oil Painting, Acrylic Painting and Animation Art. All workshops run for eight sessions and are held at 227 Connecticut St., East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. For inquiries, call 725-8518 or e-mail artinformal@yahoo.com.

ECI Systems, the training and management consulting division of Environmental Counselors, Inc. will be holding its first **training seminar for Environmental Impact Assessment preparers** on Aug. 26-27. There will also be an orientation seminar on environmental law such as the new rules and guidelines on securing Environmental Compliance Certificates from the DENR on Aug. 25. Venue is at the ECI Training Center, 9th Floor, Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For details, call Irene at 637-6626 to 27.



JPalencia's "Ihom Harmonics No. 225," on view at Gallery 139

The opening salvo of this year's chain of bazaars and great buys starts on Aug. 28-29 as the **Angel Sent Bazaar** goes to the Lower Lobby of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Manufacturers, wholesalers and suppliers are expected to unload their pre-holiday shopping goods at low prices. For details, call Philtrade Exhibits at 825-3482 or 825-0804.

Coherent Inc. supports and trains **blind massage practitioners** who can render Touch Therapy, Shiatsu, Tsubos and Acupressure in homes, offices and other establishments where they can do massage to clients to make them relax. Please call 419-6432 or .0919-8420258 for inquiries and schedule.

The **2004 Hands-on Choral Workshop** will be held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Oct. 25-29 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The workshop is a choral clinic open to amateur choirs and conductors who wish to develop their skills in choral singing. Workshop sessions include vocalization techniques, sectional rehearsals, conducting techniques for conductors, individual choir rehearsals, note reading sessions and plenary sessions. Due to limited slots available, registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. For inquiries, call 832-2414 or 832-1125 loc. 1604/1605.

The **UP Film Institute** is now accepting applications to its **short Production Workshops**. Courses offered are: Basic Photography, Sept. 16-18 (first session) and Sept. 23-25 (second session); Advanced Lighting Photography, Oct. 4-9 and limited to 10 participants; Documentary Photography & Digital Printing, Nov. 11-13/18-20 and limited to 15 participants; Basic Video Production, Nov. 4-6/12-14; Scriptwriting, Oct. 22, 23, 25, 26, 27 and 29; Digital Sound Editing, Nov. 4-6. All applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For details, call 925-0286 and 926-3640.

RYDw101, a car and bike show and dance party organized by the UP Economics Society will be held on Sept. 18 at the parking lot of the One Luna Lifestyle Center, Eastwood City, Libis. Registration for the transport show is currently ongoing. Interested parties may contact UP Ecosoc (0917-8105976).

X-manila

Apatan, recent works of Jesi Dimaculangan, Bon Mujeres, Sam Penaso and Richard Santos, until Aug. 31 at 2452 1st Avenue, Villa Silangan Subd., Sta. Cruz, Laguna. For details, call (049) 808-6617 / (0916) 7720368.

"Guro ng Kapayapaan 1/1" by Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, on exhibit at Hiraya Gallery

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Pinoy Nga

By Jess Abrera

Laging May Kasama

LoveNotes

By Joe D' Mango

The Pain of Being Number Three

Jorge is a married man who has another mistress aside from me. I knew all these before I had my own affair with him

Dear Joe,

Call me Abby, a 21-year-old student close to graduation and hoping for a wonderful career. Everything was good for me: a wonderful life in school, great family and an amazing eight-year relationship with my then-boyfriend. We've been together since high school, and decided to have a civil wedding this month before he leaves the country.

Everything was fine until I got myself into a dare—a kissing dare with my friend, Jorge. I surprised myself because it was something I had never done in my entire life. That kiss ended up with us in bed after a few days. I was so guilty, Joe. I had been a loyal girlfriend until that night. Now I was dating someone else and he was so sweet that I was really happy.

The next thing I did was to call off my wedding. I didn't have a single regret and was willing to give up everything for Jorge. I was overwhelmed with what's happening to us until I realized I had a big problem.

Jorge is a married man and has another mistress aside from me. Yes, Joe, I am his number three, and I knew all these before I had my own affair with him. He admitted he has also fallen for me, that he's leaving his mistress, and that I was different from the others. I can feel his sincerity, his truthfulness in what he feels for me but I know it can never be.

Joe, we've both been trying to end this affair because we know it's wrong. I was blind and deaf to my transgression as long as I was happy. I know he's not mine and never will be but as long as I have him in my arms, I'll make the most of it. I've even accepted that someday he has to leave me.

I love him so but I admit the situation pains me now. At times, I remember my ex-boyfriend. I know I don't have to wait for that day when Jorge has to go but I can't make my move. Help me, Joe, I am so bothered. I can't seem to let go.

Abby

Dear Abby,

You know where you stand in Jorge's life and you are aware of the small, if there is still any, probability that you would eventually be his wife. You said you are happy being in this kind of affair and as long as you feel this way, nothing is going to stop you from doing what you want. I understand where you are coming from and assume you are also aware of the many lives that have suffered because of your conviction to stand by what you want.

Abby, the problem when we love a person is that when we have too much of it, we become selfishly engrossed in trying to keep that person, sometimes at the expense of other people's happiness. We forget that the essence of loving is in letting go and the real measure of our love is our ability to sacrifice our own pleasure for the good of others.

You are in this affair not for anyone else but yourself. Jorge doesn't have the same commitment. When you go, he loses nothing but when he goes, you will be all alone.

Abby, you cannot let go of a person for as long as you love him. The only moment when letting go is possible is when you stop loving that person. That initiative has to come from you and no one else. You hold the key to your own misery or chance of being happy again. Let us always remember that borrowed happiness is short-lived. Real happiness is found only when we give more than we receive and when we have peace that dwells in our hearts. Q

Eric ...from page 2

their bodies. I'm just glad that FHM is serving a purpose—sex education for the youth because sex education in this country is still not an accepted concept."

Better men

Ramos also counters accusations about FHM treating women as sex objects because of all that nudity. He trots out as example women in the Middle East who are smothered in clothing. "*Sino and biktima doon* (who's the victim there)? Compare that with the naked woman in the magazine who is in total control of her body and her sexuality, doing what she wants to do."

FHM does not turn men into chauvinist pigs either, insists Ramos. "The magazine is about turning men into better men in terms of sex and relationships. We try to inculcate a sense of gender sensitivity. The idea behind FHM is that men don't know a lot about women so they need to know these things. We're celebrating the beauty of women. The world would be such a lonely place *kung wala kang nakikitang magagandang babae* (if you don't see beautiful women)."

Fifty issues, various cause celebrés and countless pictorials later, Ramos feels that FHM now reflects his own sensibilities. All that comes with commercial success and the challenge to keep things fresh. FHM Philippines' standout sales prove that they're here to stay, he adds. "Just the fact that we're the biggest magazine in the country now says we're legit, so deal with it." Q

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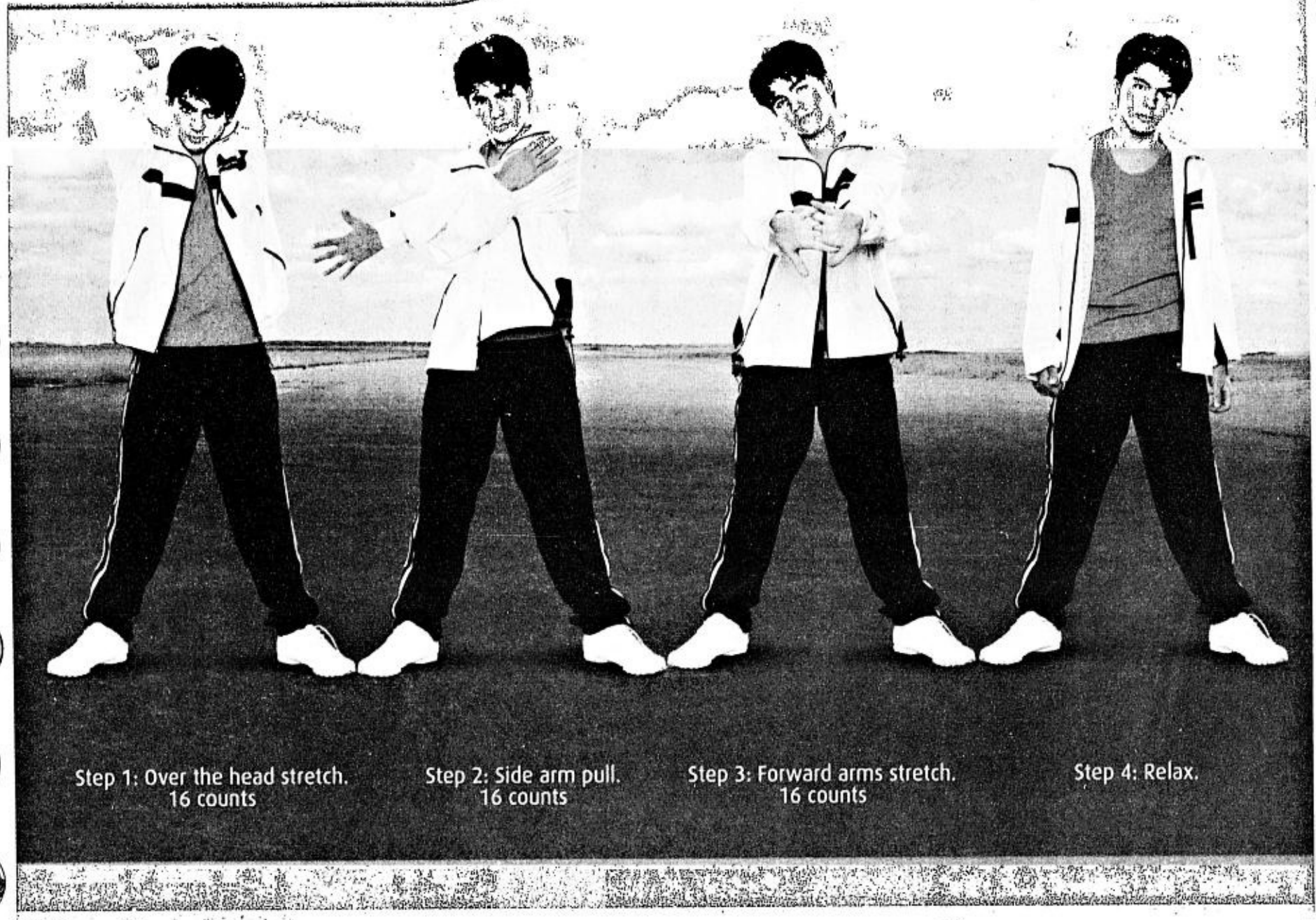

Step 1: Over the head stretch. 16 counts

Step 2: Side arm pull. 16 counts

Step 3: Forward arms stretch. 16 counts

Step 4: Relax.

Picture messages

PIC 8BALL2 PIC HAYAA PIC GOTGAME PIC GAME1 PIC DRIBBLE PIC BOXR PIC SPAR PIC BOXING PIC DIVE2 PIC WECHAMPS

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VALENZUELA CITY

Mono tones

Song Title	Artist/Composer	Tone Keywords
Fighter	Christina Aguilera	TONE FIGHTER
All Rise	Blue	TONE ALLRISE
We Are The Champions	Queen	TONE CHAMPIONS
Doesn't Really Matter	Janet Jackson	TONE DOESNMA
Get Busy	Sean Paul	TONE GETBUSY
Hey Ya	Outkast	TONE HEYYA
Hero	Enrique Iglesias	TONE HERO
I'll Never Leave You	Lumidee	TONE NEVERLEAVE
Sunrise	Simply Red	TONE SUNRISE
Toxic	Britney Spears	TONE TOXIC
Try	Nelly Furtado	TONE TRY
No Letting Go	Wayne Wonder	TONE NOLET
Let's Get It Started	Black Eyed Peas	TONE LETSGET
Praise You	Fatboy Slim	TONE PRAISEU
Rock Your Body	Justin Timberlake	TONE ROCKYOUR
Fly Away	Lenny Kravitz	TONE FLYAWAY
Bring Me Back To Life	Evanescence	TONE BRINGME
Breaking The Habit	Linkin Park	TONE BREAKHABIT
Got To Get Through This	Daniel Beddingfield	TONE GOTTAGET
Under Pressure	Queen	TONE UNDERP

Poly tones

Song Title	Artist/Composer	Poly Keyword
Can't Hold Us Down	Christina Aguilera	POLY CANTHOLD
We Are The Champions	Queen	POLY CHAMPIONS
Together Again	Janet Jackson	POLY 2GDERAGN
Hey Ya	Outkast	POLY HEYYA
Hero	Enrique Iglesias	POLY HERO
Sunrise	Simply Red	POLY SUNRISE
Toxic	Britney Spears	POLY TOXIC
Try	Nelly Furtado	POLY TRY
Like I Love You	Justin Timberlake	POLY LIKEI
YMCA	Village People	POLY YMCA
Fly Away	Lenny Kravitz	POLY FLYAWAY
Breaking The Habit	Linkin Park	POLY BREAKHABIT
Got To Get Through This	Daniel Beddingfield	POLY GOTTAGET
We Will Rock You	Queen	POLY ROCKYOU
Alive & Kicking	Simple Minds	POLY ALIVEN
Where Is The Love	Black Eyed Peas	POLY WERISLUV
Bigger Than My Body	John Mayer	POLY BIGGER
The Next Episode	Dr. Dre	POLY NEXTEP1
Harder To Breathe	Maroon 5	POLY HARDER
Satisfaction	The Rolling Stones	POLY SATISFAC

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The do's and don'ts of auditioning

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Still no Olympic gold: Saan tayo nagkulang?

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Debt payments to eat up third of P901-B budget

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG has proposed a budget of P901 billion for 2005, but not much can be expected by the people in terms of services, according to the chair of the House appropriations committee.

The proposed budget is 12 percent big-

DEBT/ A9

Solve unemployment: Stay off work, get paid

STOCKHOLM—Stay home from work, laze about or travel, while collecting 70 percent of your salary—an illusion?

Not in Sweden where the government

SOLVE/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Monday, August 23, 2004 ★★ 76 pages / 6 sections / vol. 19 / no. 257 P18
website: www.inq7.net

UP economists warn of RP crash in 2 years

Gov't urged to check deficit, debt problems

By Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.
Senior Desk Editor

THE COUNTRY faces economic collapse in two years unless the government reins in the widening public sector deficit and the ballooning debt by adopting a package of revenue and cost-saving measures.

The warning is not from the chief economist of the London-based Standard Chartered Bank, who spoke early this year of a crisis similar to that which befell Argentina, but from 11 faculty members at the University of the Philippines School of Economics.

The UP economists themselves are not ruling out a Philippine crisis similar to that experienced by the Latin American country.

Argentina defaulted on its $88-billion debt in 2002, causing its currency to plunge, inflation to pick up, output to collapse and riots to break out in the streets. Political chaos ensued as a succession of presidents assumed office briefly.

The economists expressed alarm that the public has not recognized the government's worsening fiscal and debt problems as the country's "most urgent problem" as pointed out by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address last month.

"Though business people may wring their hands, bureaucrats may fret, and a polite audience may click their tongues, public debt and government deficits, it must be acknowledged, are no immediate concern to the great majority of Filipinos," the UP economists said in their 28-page paper titled "The Deepening Crisis: The Real Score on Deficits and Public Debt."

This situation poses "risk and danger," according to Emmanuel S. de Dios, Benjamin E. Diokno, Emmanuel F. Esguerra, Raul V. Fabella, Ma. Socorro Go-

UP ECONOMISTS/ A20

New DND chief vows fight against corruption

By Alcuin Papa

SHAKE up the defense department a bit so that it will be rid of corruption, upgrade the equipment and boost the firepower of the 115,000 soldiers under its wing, and stamp out pockets of military adventurism.

These are some of the goals that lawyer Avelino "Nonong" Cruz Jr. has set for himself as he prepares to assume his post as one of the few civilians ever to head the sensitive department.

For the controversial appointee of President Macapagal-Arroyo, it will be a journey from the boardroom to the war room.

"My focus will be in improving and modernizing the fighting capability of the Armed Forces and soldiers' welfare," Cruz said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

"And that means equipment, as well as improving soldiers' benefits, clothing, housing, pension funds and medical services."

He also said there would be a need to seek help from the country's Western allies, including the United States, in order to erase the Philippines' image abroad as a terrorist haven.

To keep the procurement and

NEW DND/ A22

Ninoy's Japanese pal wants to know killer

By Fe Zamora

AFTER 21 years, Filipinos deserve to know the truth about the last 81 seconds in the life of Ninoy Aquino, according to a Japanese journalist.

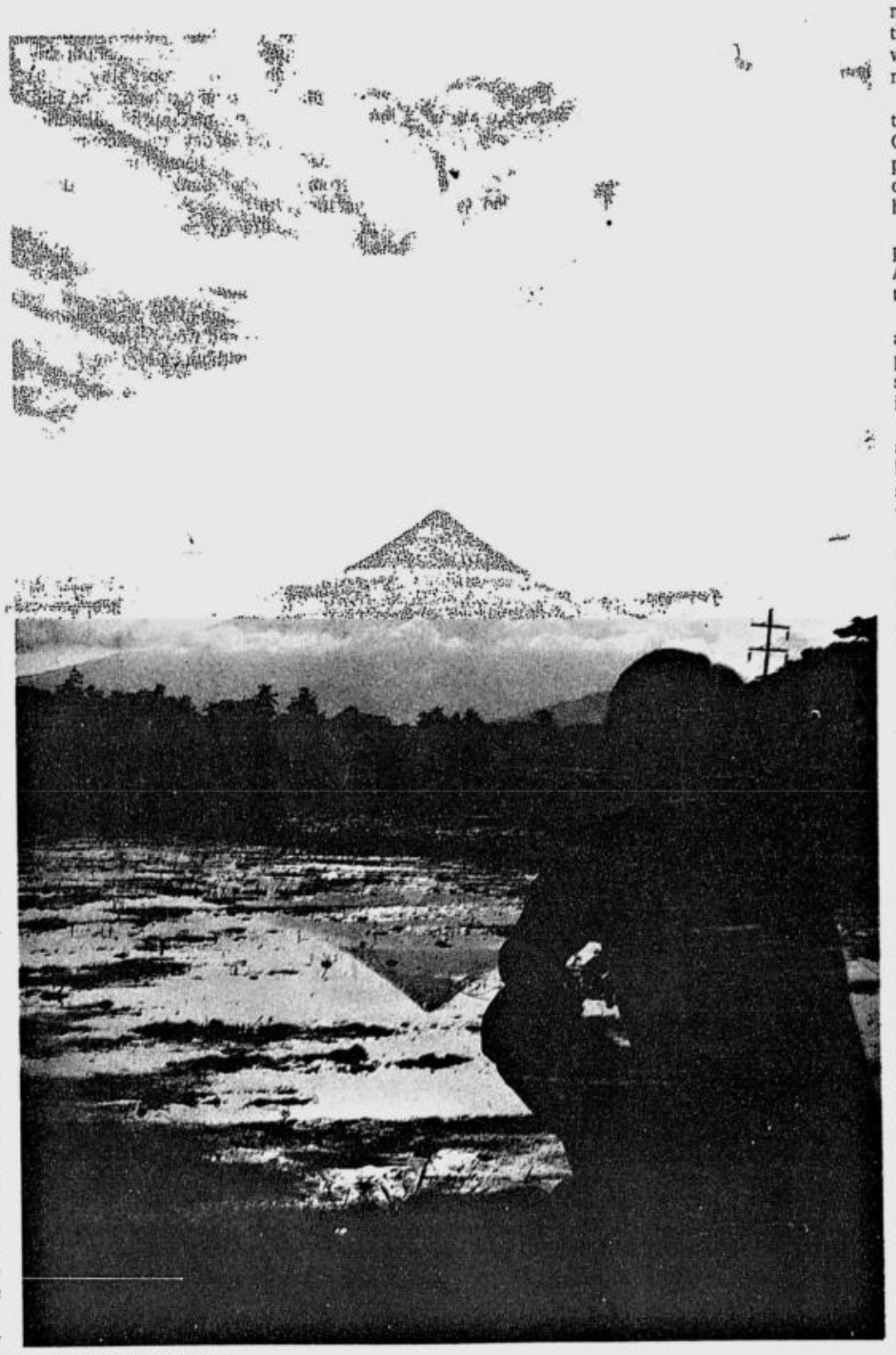
Kiyoshi Wakamiya, the Japanese journalist-friend of the slain opposition leader, yesterday said that up to now there was still controversy about who really killed US President John F. Kennedy in 1963, despite findings by the Warren Commission that the assassination was the work of a lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald.

"The Philippines will do better if it uncovers the truth about the Aquino assassination," Wakamiya said in an interview with the INQUIRER. "The Filipino people deserve to know the truth."

Wakamiya, who testified in the trial of the Aquino-Galman double murder case, welcomed calls for the reopening of the case, saying this would be a chance to "really get to the bottom of the truth."

The Japanese free-lance journalist was with former Sen. Benigno Aquino on that fateful flight from Taipei to Manila on

NINOY'S/ A5



SUNRISE SURPRISE
Mayon Volcano's near-perfect cone provides the perfect setting for a magnificent daybreak to a farming community in Oas town in Albay.
JESS YUSON

Business not represented in Cabinet

By Amando Doronila

THREE of the 33 Cabinet members appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo last week were recruited from the members of Congress—Representatives Florencio Abad, education secretary; Raul Gonzalez, justice secretary, and Joseph Ace Durano, tourism secretary.

ANALYSIS

Among the new appointees are old workhorses in the previous Arroyo administration. They include the new foreign secretary, Alberto Romulo, former executive secretary; defense secretary, Avelino Cruz Jr., former presidential legal counsel; executive secretary, Eduardo Ermita, former defense secretary, and environ-

BUSINESS/ A22

'KADAYAWAN'
A young contingent from Davao del Sur performs the "Indak-Indak sa Kadalanan" during the street dancing competition of the "Kadayawan" Festival at the Rizal Park in Davao City.
RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

2 wild plants eyed for bio-diesel

By Emir Emano Gamis and Ronnie Lorejo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SORSOGON CITY—Experts may have found alternative fuel sources in medicinal plants that grow wild in Bicol.

The Department of Agrarian Reform and the Philippine Coconut Authority are encouraging farmers to propagate two indigenous plants—*tuba-tuba* and *hanga* (petroleum nut)—upon the recommendation of their technical personnel.

In a recent meeting between the two agencies, PCA Administrator Danilo Coronacion said both plants could thrive under the coconut tree and that the biodiesel derived from them could be mixed with petroleum diesel for a formula that would satisfy the requirements of the Clean Air Act.

Alfredo Rillo, PCA regional manager, told the INQUIRER that his agency was focusing on

2 WILD/ A4

Foreign policy for survival

By Leticia Ramos-Shahani

EDITOR'S NOTE: The author is a former senator (1987-98) and presidential adviser on culture (2001-04).

COMMENTARY

IS IT possible for a weak and impoverished country like ours to pursue an independent foreign policy?

The Philippines is caught in the "shock-and-awe" events of the maelstrom in Iraq. Twisting in the wind, we seem to have forgotten one constitutional admonition.

A major innovation in the 1987 Constitution is the inclusion of Article II, Section 7: "The State shall pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other states, the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest and the right to self-determination."

In an age of globalization, these are important directives. To make globalization work, strong, self-reliant nations are the best partners. Weak ones will be marginalized.

An independent foreign policy is basic to our survival. Even when negotiating from a position

FOREIGN/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/23/04

Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Gov't-MILF talks postponed

By Carlito Pablo

PEACE talks scheduled to begin this week between the Philippines and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have been pushed back following deadly clashes, a rebel spokesperson said yesterday.

"It won't push through. It was postponed," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said, adding that the Malaysian government, which is hosting the talks, would be informed of the situation.

The MILF earlier announced that talks would start in Kuala Lumpur this week.

A soldier and two MILF fighters were killed last week in a clash near the town of Datu Saudi Ampatuan in Mindanao, the military said.

Separatist rebels reportedly ambushed government troops, who in turn accused the Islamic militants of violating the truce signed last year.

Peace monitors

Kabalu denied the MILF was involved, saying that the clash was sparked by a "long-time feud" between two armed groups in the area and that the military was apparently caught in the middle.

In a step toward ending three decades of rebellion, Malaysia will send a team of lightly armed peace monitors to Mindanao, a government official said yesterday.

The dispatch of 60 monitors is part of a push by mainly Muslim Malaysia to end the fighting. It is also set to host more peace talks between the government and the MILF.

Postpone elections

The Malaysian group, comprised of police, soldiers and diplomatic officials, would be monitoring the truce put in place in July last year, said a Malaysian defense ministry spokesman.

"They will be there to help see the ceasefire between the MILF and the Philippine government is kept," he said.

Hopeful that the government and MILF could still forge a final peace agreement within the year, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. proposed the postponement of elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao scheduled this year.

De Venecia called for a meeting with congressmen from the ARMM provinces to discuss postponement of the regional elections set for November, to allow the MILF to participate in the exercise.

A peace agreement would allow the MILF to field its own candidates in the regional elections, he said.

In a previous caucus, Muslim lawmakers agreed to fix a permanent date of elections in the ARMM.

The move, embodied in House Bill No. 2258, will do away with the regular intervention by Congress in setting election dates for the ARMM, according to House Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Rep. Gerry Salapuddin (Lakas, Basilan).

Congress sets polls

Salapuddin noted that it had always been Congress, through legislation, which set the elections in the region comprised of the provinces of Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Basilan.

"The holding of regular elections in the ARMM since its inception has always been the subject of the perpetual intervention of Congress," he said.

HB 2258 aims to fix the date of ARMM elections on the second Monday of May 2005, with succeeding regular elections on the second Monday of May every three years thereafter.

Salapuddin said that fixing the date of the elections would "further strengthen the autonomy of the ARMM."

De Venecia said that an immediate House decision to postpone the ARMM elections would give the Senate enough time to approve the same measure before Congress goes into recess in September. ***With reports from AFP and Reuters***

Neda, BCDA clash over Subic-Clark road

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority and the Bases Conversion Development Authority are at loggerheads over the Subic-Clark-Tarlac-Expressway (SCTE) project.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri wants the BCDA to rebid and redesign the Subic-Clark expressway project to reduce the total project cost and to connect the road to the existing North Luzon Expressway.

BCDA, however, warned that a rebidding would further delay the project, while a redesign would not guarantee any cost reductions.

Neri wanted to rebid the SCTE project due to alleged "procedural lapses" on the part of the BCDA, particularly when it changed the design of the project and bid out for way above the P18.7-billion budget it had approved in 2000.

But BCDA president Rufo Colayco warned that a rebidding would mean close to a year in delay, which does not even guarantee that the cost would be lowered.

In the event the project is rebidded, Colayco said he wanted Neri to take full responsibility for the outcome.

"I doubt that the BCDA board would be prepared to be held solely liable in the event that rather than reducing costs, we would incur additional costs by a decision to rebid, not to mention the certain 11 to 20 months delay," Colayco said in his letter.

Neri said he "can't blame them" (the BCDA and the Japanese) for feeling bad about this. "We have to do this the proper way. I don't want another Piatco on our hands," he said, referring to the Supreme Court's nullification of the airport terminal developer's contract.

The road project is being funded by soft loans from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

In a letter to Colayco on Aug. 16, Neri said the BCDA should "explore anew the possibility of connecting the project to the existing North Luzon Tollway."

Neri said the redesign of the project should be made with "the end view of reducing the total project cost without sacrificing the intended benefits of the project."

Bill postponing barangay, SK elections filed

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CANDON CITY—Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson has filed a bill in Congress seeking to postpone the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections scheduled in 2005 and 2006, respectively, to cut government spending and generate savings of at least P2 billion.

House Bill No. 1069 entitled "An act amending Republic Act No. 9164 to extend the terms of office of barangay officials and reset the date of barangay elections" proposes the holding of the elections in 2007.

Singson's bill was the first bill filed in the 13th Congress. HB 1069 was filed on July 7 and was referred to the House of Representatives committee on local government.

"It will save the government at least P2 billion which would be of great help to the country's economic recovery," Singson told the INQUIRER.

Under the bill, the barangay polls scheduled in October 2005, and the SK elections scheduled in 2006, would be held instead on the last Monday of October 2007.

Singson said House Majority Floor Leader Prospero Nograles told him that Malacañang was supportive of his bill during a recent meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac).

Singson said the poll postponement would also ease the intense rivalries that usually break out during elections in the country's villages.

"We cannot fully focus on development and economic projects and programs as we have elections very often," Singson said.

He assured the public, however, that incompetent barangay officials, even without elections, could still be removed from their posts through the recall process embodied in the Local Government Code.

This would not be the first time that barangay elections were postponed. In 2001, barangay polls were postponed by one year.

In Cebu City, barangay officials also want the 2005 elections postponed to avoid further straining the government's finances. But the reason could be more personal—to hold on to their posts for two more years.

In Thursday's national assembly, the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas passed a resolution asking Congress to postpone the barangay elections scheduled for October next year to 2007.

Mandaue City's Association of Barangay Councils (ABC) president Joy Ouano, Liga's vice president for the Visayas, said the resolution was initiated by barangay captains in Zamboanga City and was passed unanimously.

Ouano said their reason was to help President Macapagal-Arroyo and her administration save money to shave the country's ballooning budget deficit.

Senate majority set to welcome Pimentel

By Christine O. Avendaño

WHILE the minority bloc prepares to discuss today the resignation of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. as its leader, the majority bloc has opened its door to him.

"He (Pimentel) is welcome to align with us if he so wishes," said Majority Leader Sen. Francis Pangilinan in a text message to the INQUIRER on Saturday, in reaction to reports that Pimentel had quit as minority leader.

Pangilinan repeated the invitation during an interview yesterday.

Senate President Franklin Drilon also said he supported Pangilinan's invitation for the minority leader to join the 14-member majority.

"Certainly, he's welcome," Drilon said in a phone interview.

At least two minority members confirmed that Pimentel had told them he was resigning as minority leader "effective immediately," after he became the lone minority member among 12 majority senators to support the amendment to the legislative calendar for this year.

Except for Sen. Edgardo Angara, who was absent that day, seven minority members voted against the amendment.

The Senate approved the amendment to the calendar on Wednesday.

The amendment basically called for congressional sessions to run from July 25 to Sept. 24, to be followed by a month-long adjournment. Sessions would then resume on Oct. 17 and then adjourn again on Dec. 17 for the holiday break.

Yesterday, Drilon said it was actually Pimentel who proposed the amendment to the congressional calendar.

"It was his proposal and he sent it to me and Pangilinan," Drilon said.

Critics said the amendment would mean more breaks for the Senate.

Pangilinan clarified that there would actually be more session days.

"The truth is we lengthened our work to two months, or nine weeks of continuous sessions, whereas it used to be just six or seven weeks of continuous sessions in previous Congresses," he said in a statement.

Pangilinan urged an end to the debate on the calendar, saying there was a need "to move on."

In a text message, he invited Pimentel to join the majority because he is "independent-minded and a maverick," like majority Senators Joker Arroyo and Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

"But if he declines, we will respect that." Pangilinan said.

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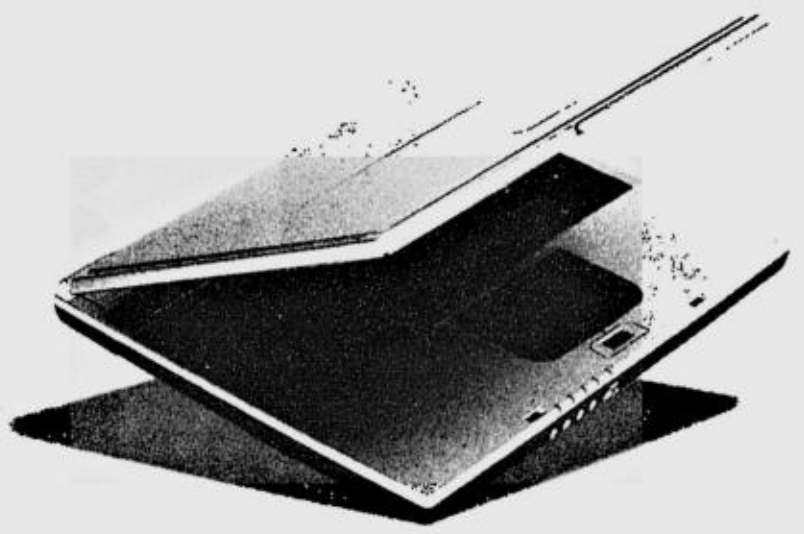

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NOT YOUR TYPICAL DOG DAY AFTERNOON
It was a pleasant Sunday, not the kind that has a dog's tongue hanging out from the heat, as this man and his family walk their dogs at the Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard in Manila yesterday, the day after typhoon Marce exited the country. JESS JUSON

Ebdane gets largely failing grade for term as top cop

By Christian V. Esguerra

AS FAR as militant and anticrime groups are concerned, they have every reason to celebrate Director-General Hermogenes Ebdane's departure from the Philippine National Police today.

The left-leaning Bagong Alyansang Makabayan yesterday gave Ebdane the "lowest possible grade" of 50 percent for implementing the government's "no-permit no-rally" policy "with impunity."

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption gave him a grade of 60 percent, saying he had done practically nothing to improve the country's peace and order situation.

Only the Philippine Islamic Council, one of the country's largest organizations of Muslims, appreciated Ebdane's performance as PNP chief the past two years.

95 percent

Prof. Taha Basman, council national president, yesterday gave Ebdane a grade of 95 percent for his "active relationship with the Muslim community."

"He did his best, especially to remove the stigma on Muslims that we're terrorists whenever there's a terrorist attack," Basman told the INQUIRER. "He was very supportive of our efforts."

But VACC chair Dante Jimenez and Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño apparently had a far different opinion of Ebdane.

One of the longest-serving chiefs in PNP history, Ebdane will formally turn over command to Deputy Director-General Edgar Aglipay at Camp Crame at 10 a.m. today.

Vested interests

"Under his leadership, the PNP showed how it could be used by the administration for its own interests," Casiño said in a telephone interview.

He cited the strict implementation of the Arroyo administration's policy against protesters, especially against mass actions associated with the May 10 presidential elections.

Jimenez said he flunked Ebdane primarily for the "sloppy" work of police investigators.

"There have been too many unsolved cases largely because prosecutors are dismissing them due to insufficient evidence and sloppy work in the police investigation level," Jimenez said in Filipino.

The allegation was somehow highlighted by the Mandaluyong prosecutor's recent decision to junk for lack of probable cause the criminal cases against Ryan Jaworksi and Anjelo Elton Yap, whose groups turned a Greenhills street into a virtual war zone last June 21.

Cardeño still free

Jimenez said his assessment of Ebdane's performance was also based on the latter's failure to capture ex-Supt. Rafael Cardeño, the prime suspect in the Baron Cervantes murder.

Sought for comment, former police agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong refused to give Ebdane a grade but said she was glad his term was over.

"General Aglipay's appointment is long overdue," Ong told the INQUIRER. "It's unfortunate that a good man like him would just serve for a few months."

Under Ebdane's leadership, the PNP chalked up significant accomplishments against drug-trafficking. But Ong credited this to Aglipay, who headed the special police task force on illegal drugs.

Kidnap cases down

The PNP's spokesperson, Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, yesterday came to his beleaguered boss' rescue.

Goltiao said the number of kidnap-for-ransom cases dropped by 43 percent since 2003, primarily because of the creation of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) team.

Ebdane formed Pacer in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's ultimatum to dismantle the top 20 kidnap gangs in the country. It was the first order he received after he assumed office in July 2002.

Goltiao said it was also unfair to judge Ebdane's performance based on the escape of Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi from Camp Crame in July 2003.

Al-Ghozi escape

"To blame him for that would be taking the principle of command responsibility too far," he argued. "He did not make any decisions in that."

Under fire for the humiliation, police tracker teams found and killed Al-Ghozi in an encounter in Mindanao three months later.

Amid the mix of achievements and failures, Ebdane should be credited with "unifying" the PNP ranks, according to Goltiao.

"His greatest achievement is the fact that he was able to unify the PNP as an organization," he said.

Ex-NPA hostages to get key military assignments

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE TWO Army officers who were freed recently by the communist New People's Army which had held them captive for nearly six months will be assigned to key positions soon, the military said yesterday.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, Armed Forces of the Philippines information officer, said there was no reason to doubt the loyalty to the government of Lt. Ronaldo Fidelino and Pfc. Ronel Nemeño since neither was suffering from Stockholm syndrome.

The syndrome is the condition where captives become sympathetic to their captors' cause owing perhaps to fear and the long time spent together.

In the case of Fidelino and Nemeño, "there's no Stockholm syndrome whatsoever," Lucero told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

In fact, Lucero said, the NPA's Romulo Jallores Command which held the captives made sure neither Fidelino nor Nemeño came into close contact with the rebels lest they be "brainwashed" by the soldiers.

The two officers, he said, would return to active duty as soon as they are debriefed, a standard military procedure for captured soldiers.

Lucero could not tell, however, how long the debriefing would take. He said the two were still undergoing tests at the Army hospital in Fort Bonifacio.

Fidelino and Nemeño were captured after communist rebels ambushed their patrol in Tinambac, Camarines Sur, on Feb. 29, 2004.

They were released the other week, following a series of negotiations between top government and National Democratic Front officials. The NDF is the umbrella organization of all communist groups in the country.

The release, a confidence-building measure in the postponed formal peace talks between the government and the NDF, was made possible by both parties' agreeing to a temporary ceasefire in the Bicol region where the soldiers were held.

Under the agreement, the ceasefire will expire on Saturday.

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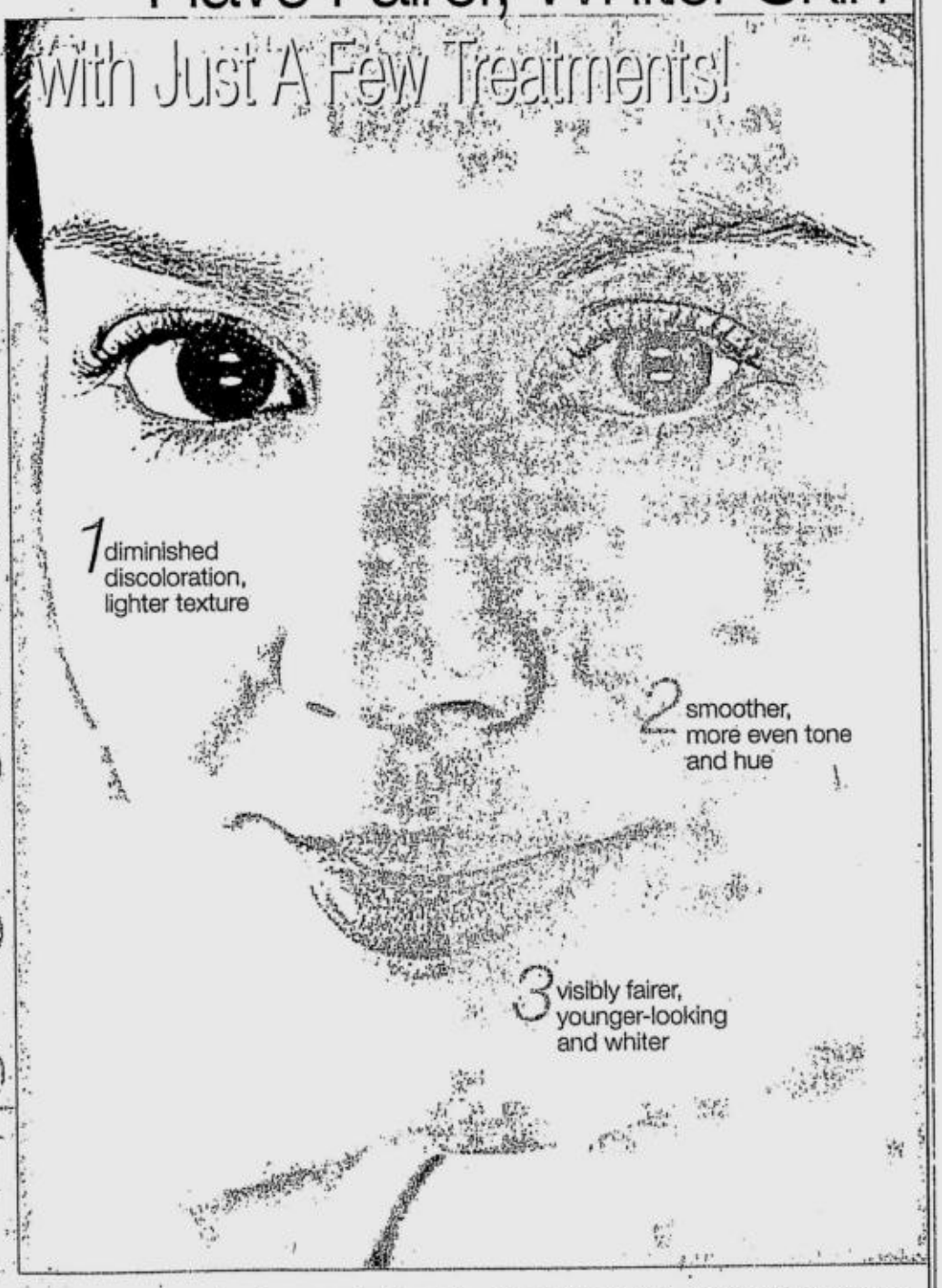

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In a study by Dr. Excelsior Valdez and Dr. Julieta Cariaga-Uy which compared the herbal food supplement ABS Bitter Herbs and statin (simvastatin) in a group of 300 patients who had blood cholesterol of 240 mg/dl or more aged 30-65 years old. One hundred fifty patients were randomized to be given a herbal supplement ABS Bitter Herbs with a drop out rate of 19.33%. Likewise, another 150 patients were given statin with drop out rate of 22%. Patients were followed-up for a period of 12 weeks and cholesterol monitoring was done every 4 weeks. After 12 weeks, both showed a significant decrease of blood cholesterol. The decline in ABS Bitter Herbs was 43.90% and 51.09% in simvastatin with no difference between the two. It was concluded that ABS Bitter Herbs is safe and effective in lowering blood cholesterol.

Dr. Valdez states that, "our results established that ABS Bitter Herbs can be a promising herb to treat dyslipidemia, considering its safety and effectiveness. It is a good adjunct to support patients with cholesterol problems the natural way. However, further experience and study for long term results are required before it can be advocated as a replacement for the treatment of dyslipidemia."

Dr. Cariaga-Uy co-author advises, "that herbal supplements should be treated as supplements – an add-on to the nutritional maintenance of people with diseases such as hypertension and hypercholesterolemia. It has high-fiber content which is good for the heart and for overall wellness."

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2 wild plants eyed for bio-diesel

From page A1

hanga, also known as *tago-ngirit*, which is abundant in the wildernesses surrounding of Mayon Volcano.

Rillo explained: "Based on studies conducted on the petroleum plant, it can yield about 45-percent gasoline. One tin can of seeds can produce one liter of oil."

The petroleum plant, which the locals use as herbal remedy for stomachache and skin diseases, thrives 600 to 2,400 meters above sea level, crawling on the branches of big trees.

Rillo claimed there were indications that it could be "domesticated," or cultivated in lowland areas, and that "agronomic considerations" could be worked out to help it grow as an independent plant.

It was no longer a question of *hanga*'s suitability, but of quantity, Rillo said. "Our major consideration is the population of the petroleum plants in relation to the need."

Coronacion cited estimates that the country needed 70,000 to 350,000 metric tons of bio-diesel a year.

Rillo pointed out that bio-diesel "has solvency, lubricity and detergency," which translated to increased fuel mileage and cleaner vehicle emission. He cited Malacañang Circular No. 55, which requires that bio-diesel should consist one percent of the fuel used in government vehicles.

The PCA was urgently seeking the support of local government units, notably Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzales, and other concerned agencies, Rillo said, since time was of the essence. World crude prices have skyrocketed to nearly $50 per barrel.

Coronacion said the Philippines could eventually export bio-diesel to Japan, which requires 2.4 million metric tons yearly. Tokyo alone needed 600,000 metric tons a year, he said.

Rillo clarified that the main agency tasked with discovering and developing alternative fuel sources was the Department of Energy, and that the PCA's role in the whole effort was participatory.

He said two private companies in Pasig and Lucena cities were operating bio-diesel processing plants at present, and that the products were distributed by SeaOil and Flying V, small oil players that teamed up with the government's advocacy.

As for exporting to Japan, Rillo said, "Maybe in time."

An oil company in the United Kingdom has expressed interest in importing raw materials from the country, he revealed. "[But] let's fill the local need first."

Corrections

IN THE STORY, "Reward OK but we want justice" (Aug. 18, Second Front Page banner), it was misstated that Iloilo journalist Josef Nava was killed in October 1997. Nava was gunned down in Iloilo City on Oct. 30, 1988. The story that was sent by the Visayas Bureau carried the date October 1987, which had been erroneously provided to the INQUIRER by Nava's son Jose Marte. It became October 1997 when it saw print.

* * *

THE HEAD of a story on Page 12A of the Aug. 20 issue misstated that Pakistan Finance Minister Sahukat Aziz, set to become the country's prime minister after winning a seat in parliament, would become Palestinian premier. "Palestinian" should have read "Pakistani."

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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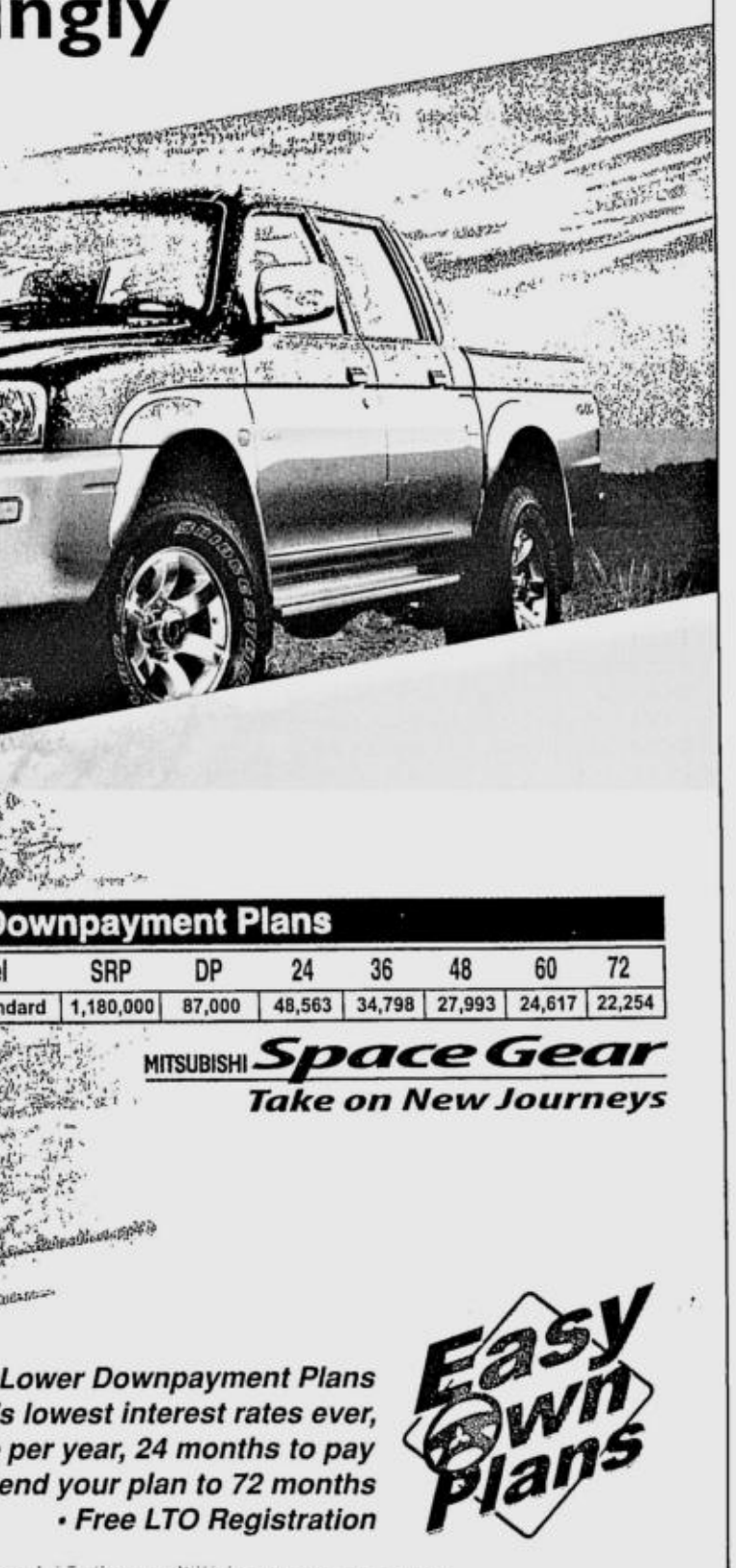

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Ninoy's Japanese pal wants to know killer

From page A1

Aug. 21, 1983, which ended with Aquino's murder on the tarmac of the Manila International Airport, now named after the martyred opposition leader.

Wakamiya said he welcomed a new trial even if any new testimony would demolish his claim that a soldier had shot Aquino.

5 civilian witnesses

"Let us listen to what they will have to say. It may be hard to believe, but I am willing to listen," said Wakamiya, who arrived last week to attend the 21st commemoration of Aquino's martyrdom.

The Public Attorney's Office said the other day it had five potential civilian witnesses who had indicated willingness to give new testimony on what they knew about the assassination, which triggered massive protests culminating in a "people power" revolt that ended Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorial rule.

PAO chief Persida Rueda-Acosta said one of the five was an eyewitness to the murder. Acosta declined to identify the witness or give details about the person's background.

She said the new evidence could pave the way for the reopening of the case.

Wakamiya, who testified in the previous trial of soldiers linked to the murder, also offered to help ferret out the truth about the assassination by helping M/Sgt. Pablo Martinez and other convicted soldiers recall what transpired on the tarmac on that fateful afternoon.

Sixteen soldiers were convicted of murdering Aquino and his alleged gunman, Rolando Galman, and are now serving double life terms.

Wakamiya said he would like to show the soldiers a video and sound analysis of the event so that together they could piece the jigsaw-puzzle.

He said he had "a nice view of the scene" from the top of the stairways while Martinez, who was on the ground, could have had a good view of the scene from another perspective.

Aquino, returning home from three years of exile in the United States, was gunned down after he was hustled by soldiers out of the plane that brought him to Manila.

Well-organized plot

A majority of the members of a fact-finding commission concluded that Aquino was shot while descending the stairway from the plane and that the assassin was one of his military escorts.

"They (soldiers) were well-organized. From the moment the escorts recognized the senator to the moment his body was loaded into the van, all of that happened in 81 seconds, or one minute and 21 seconds," Wakamiya said.

His chronology was based on the timer on the camera footage taken by the Japanese TBS and the American ABC television networks, he said.

Wakamiya had also taken a picture of soldiers shooting a "man in blue," later identified as Galman, whom the Marcos government and the military insisted had killed Aquino.

But Wakamiya, who followed Aquino from his seat to the door of the airplane, maintained that the senator was still on the stairway when he was shot, and not on the tarmac where Galman had been waiting.

"Where were these witnesses when the shooting took place? If they were inside the van, they could have not seen it," said Wakamiya, who has written a book on the assassination.

Who was the triggerman?

"I want to know the triggerman. The mastermind is another category," he said.

Wakamiya, who is married to a Filipino, is based in Tokyo.

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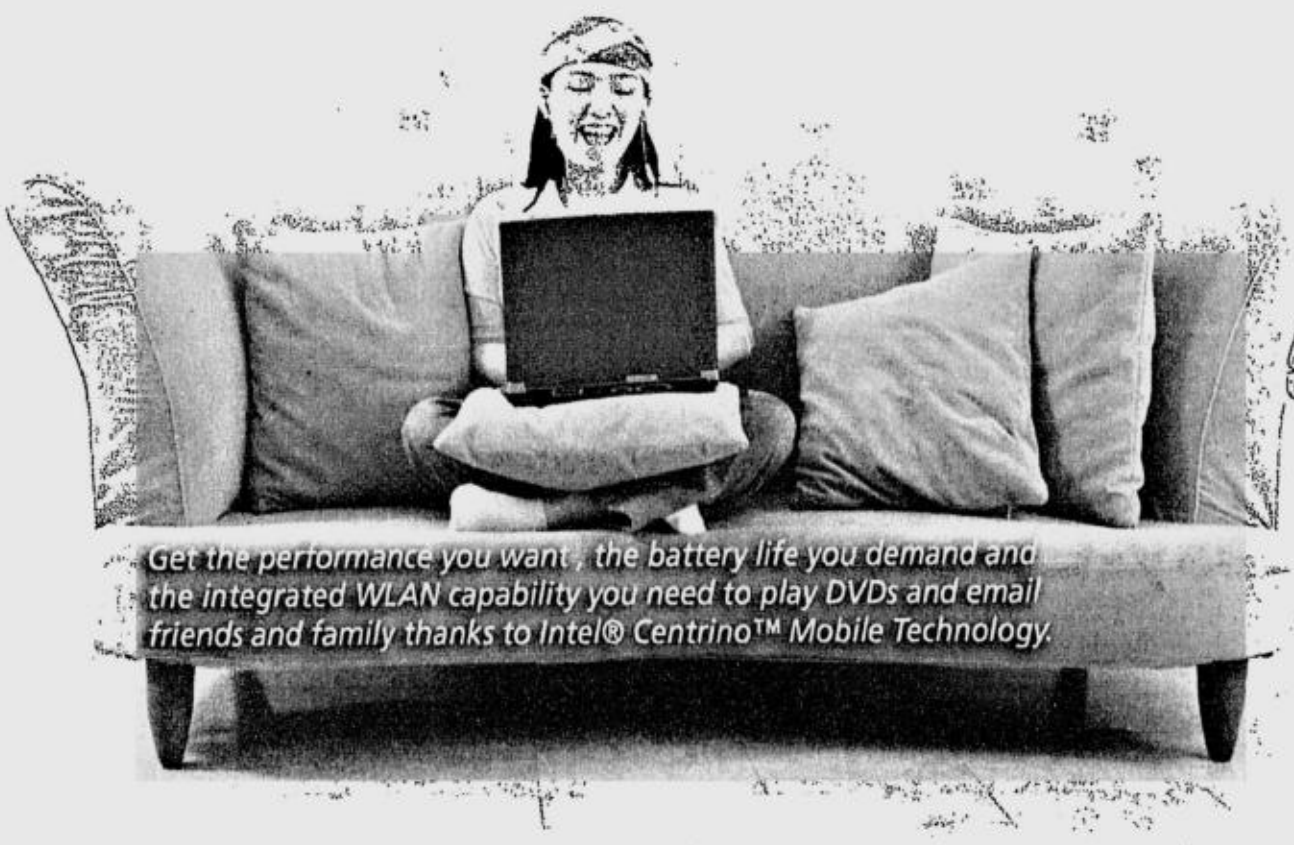

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Palace firm on ban on sending workers to Iraq

MALACAÑANG is standing firm on the ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq even if this would mean losing out on the 3,000 job orders remaining for Filipinos and the millions of dollars the workers could have earned and sent home.

In an interview over RMN radio, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that based on the latest risk assessment on Iraq, all areas in the country except for the three US military camps there were still "dangerous."

"I hope that our countrymen will understand our policy because their safety and welfare are foremost for the government," Bunye said.

A Dubai-based recruitment agency, Prime Projects, said it might start looking for other nationalities to fill up the 3,000 job openings it had reserved for Filipino workers, if the Philippine government did not lift its ban on the deployment of Filipino labor to Iraq.

Prime Projects had allocated 6,000 jobs for Filipinos but the number was cut by half due to the government ban. It instead filled up the job orders with workers from Nepal and India.

The government stopped the flow of Filipino labor to Iraq after truck driver Angelo de la Cruz was kidnapped in July and threatened with beheading by Iraqi militants who demanded the Philippines withdraw its 51-man humanitarian contingent from the country. *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

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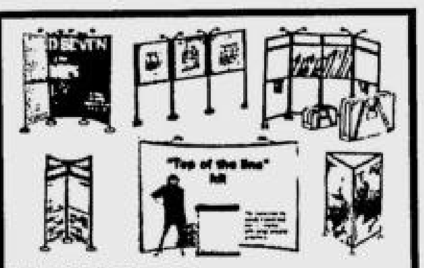

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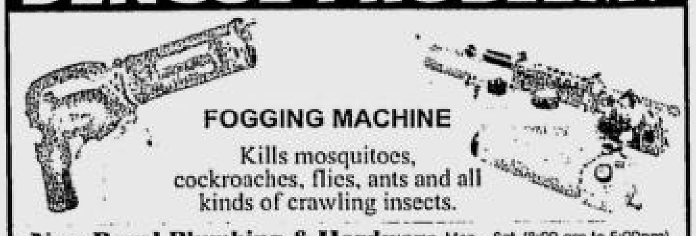

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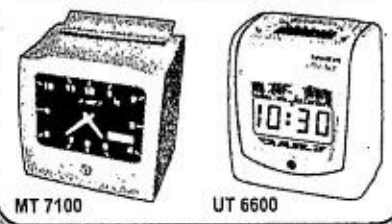

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By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CASTILLEJOS, Zambales—An aide of Gov. Vicente Magsaysay was arrested after antinarcotics agents searched his house looking for drugs but found high-powered guns instead.

Agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on Friday, with drug-sniffing dogs and carrying four search warrants, raided the house of SPO4 Orlando Cadawas in Barangay San Jose here. Cadawas, according to the PDEA, was believed to be maintaining a drug den and coddling a drug lord operating in this town.

The warrants were issued by Executive Judge Enrico Lanzanas of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 7.

The raiding team led by PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido Jr., however, did not find any drugs or drug paraphernalia but discovered that Cadawas was keeping unlicensed high-powered firearms.

Police seized an AK-47 rifle, an M-16 rifle, a 9-mm pistol and ammunition for different guns, according to Senior Supt. Wilson Victorio, Zambales police director. Cadawas, Victorio said, had been detailed to Magsaysay.

Rodolfo Caisip, PDEA deputy chief, arrested Cadawas and his caretaker. The suspects were taken to Metro Manila for investigation and where they will be charged with illegal possession of firearms.

Victorio, for his part, denied reports that certain Zambales officials were coddling a drug lord here. He said there were no drug laboratories in the province.

"We have been monitoring areas suspected to be drug dens and found none," Victorio told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

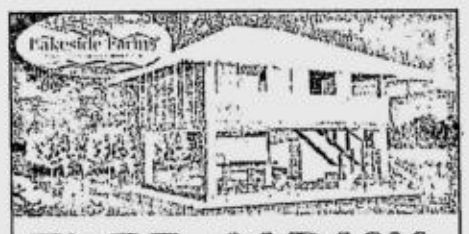
Also on Friday, PDEA agents raided a Taiwanese company in Barangay Balaybay here looking for a marijuana plantation.

The PDEA's search warrant said Stinnes Huang of Gin Queen Corp. was involved in growing marijuana. The team searched the company's premises but did not find any marijuana or Huang.

The Taiwanese-owned company, according to Vice Mayor Enrique Clarin, was the only foreign investor in this town and it operated a vegetable plantation.

Clarin said the raid surprised local officials because they did not know the company was suspected of growing marijuana. He said the farm's operation was disrupted and he feared the investor would close its business because of the raid.

"We do not tolerate drug-related activities in our town but we assured the PDEA that we will be intensifying our campaign to stop [the manufacture, sale and use of] illegal drugs here," Clarin told the INQUIRER.



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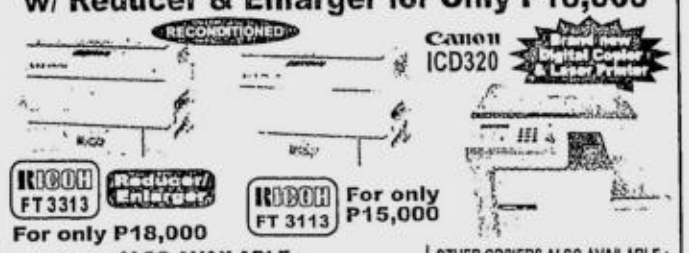

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Examinees, especially those who had not received their notices of school/building assignments are advised to verify their room/seat number assignments early to avoid confusion during examination day on Aug. 29. All examinees are advised to bring their application/filer's stub and, if available, their notice of school/building assignment.

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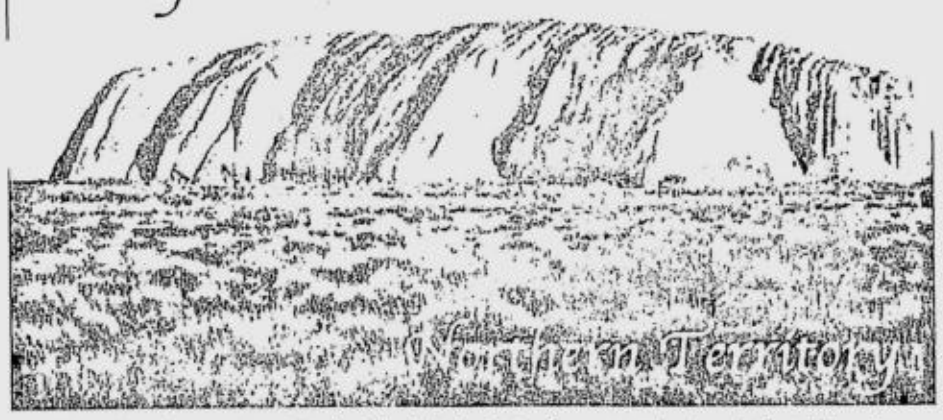

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Debt payments to eat up third of P901-B budget

From page A1

ger than this year's budget of P804 billion, which was a reenactment of the 2003 budget.

Rep. Rolando Andaya (LP, Camarines Sur) said that while P901 billion appeared huge, "given the many zeroes in it, only less than 10 percent will go to capital outlays.

"The money that will be spent to repair aging roads, replace dilapidated schools, put more beds in crowded hospitals is minuscule," Andaya said.

The culprit, according to Andaya, is the backbreaking interest payments on the government's debt.

Andaya said that debt repayments are projected to eat up 34.4 percent of the 2005 budget or a total of P310.3 billion.

1/3 for salaries

One-third of the proposed budget will go to the salaries of government officials and employees.

On top of these is the internal revenue allotment (IRA) share of local government units, which will eat up 16.5 percent of the total national budget.

"The increasing share of debt service in the budget is the natural result of having to borrow for our needs because of our penchant to outrun and outwit tax collectors," Andaya said.

The government is determined to raise P80 billion through new revenue measures.

"If new expenses are unavoidable, then new taxes are inevitable," Andaya said. "Budgets are created out of taxes, not out of thin air."

National saviors

Responding to Malacañang's call to share the burden, barangay leaders have approved a resolution proposing a freeze on increases in the IRAs of local government units from 2005 to 2007.

The National Liga ng mga Barangay also suggested that barangays waive their share in the revenues to be raised by the new taxes proposed by Malacañang.

The league came up with the proposals after an economic briefing by Rep. Joey Salceda (Lakas-Kampi, Albay), the in-house economist of the House of Representatives, during their convention in Manila last week.

Salceda hailed the barangay leaders as "national saviors" for their patriotism and pragmatism.

"Often in a crisis, no one wants to be first to volunteer to sacrifice in the hope that someone else will at some time and all efforts are squandered in arguing on who should go first," he said.

While other sectors are resisting painful reforms, the barangays have "initiated the first substantial step toward solving our fiscal problem," he said.

"Barangays have, in effect, cracked this trickiest puzzle in economics—the classic free rider problem," Salceda said.

Savings

Salceda, chair of the House committee on economic affairs, did not have immediate figures on the savings to be generated if the IRA allocations of barangays remained fixed.

But he said: "If provinces, cities and municipalities follow the lead of the barangays, then the government stands to save at least P11.4 billion in 2005 since the IRA is estimated to grow from P144.4 billion in 2004 to P155.8 billion next year.'"

"Assuming Congress passes the sin taxes this year, this would mean further savings of P5.6 billion or 40 percent of the P14 billion to be raised from higher taxes on cigarettes and liquor," he said.

Salceda explained that local government units were entitled to 40 percent of new revenues; hence, waiving this share will mean that revenues from new taxes can be used fully to reduce the deficit.

"Every P1 of new tax automatically creates 40 centavos of expenditure (IRA making available only 60 centavos for deficit reduction)," he said. "Thus if LGUs do not forego their share, to fix the deficit of P312 billion, the country needs to raise P520 billion in new taxes which are impossible."

Salceda said the barangays' offer of sacrifice could start the ball rolling in convincing other sectors to do their share in taming the deficit and raising revenues.

"It is quite ironic that while barangays are at the bottom of the national political hierarchy, they have initiated a conceptual breakthrough which is both heroic and historic," the lawmaker said.

During his lecture last week before barangay officials, Salceda said that aside from the P312-billion budget deficit, the government was saddled with a debt of P5.3 billion in 2003.

"Businessmen, labor groups, transport and other sectors of the Philippine society should all match the moral equivalent of the barangay sacrifice," he said.

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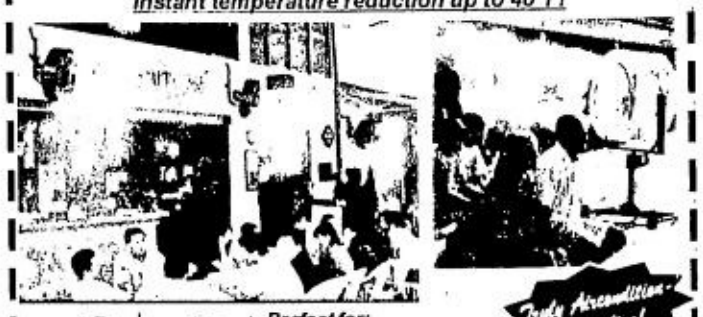

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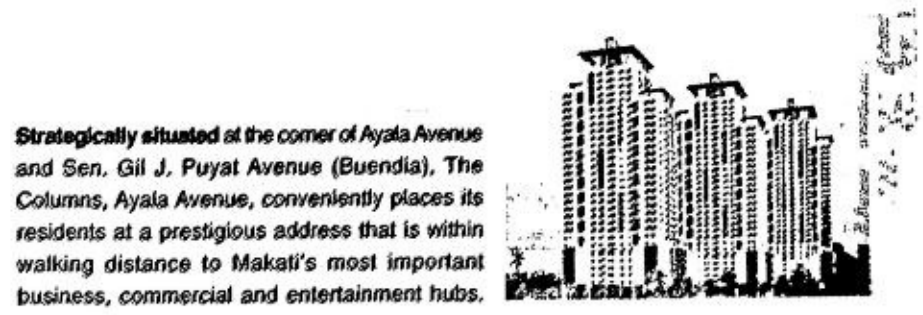

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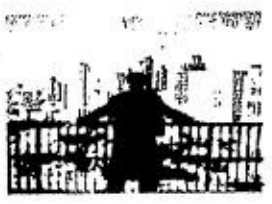

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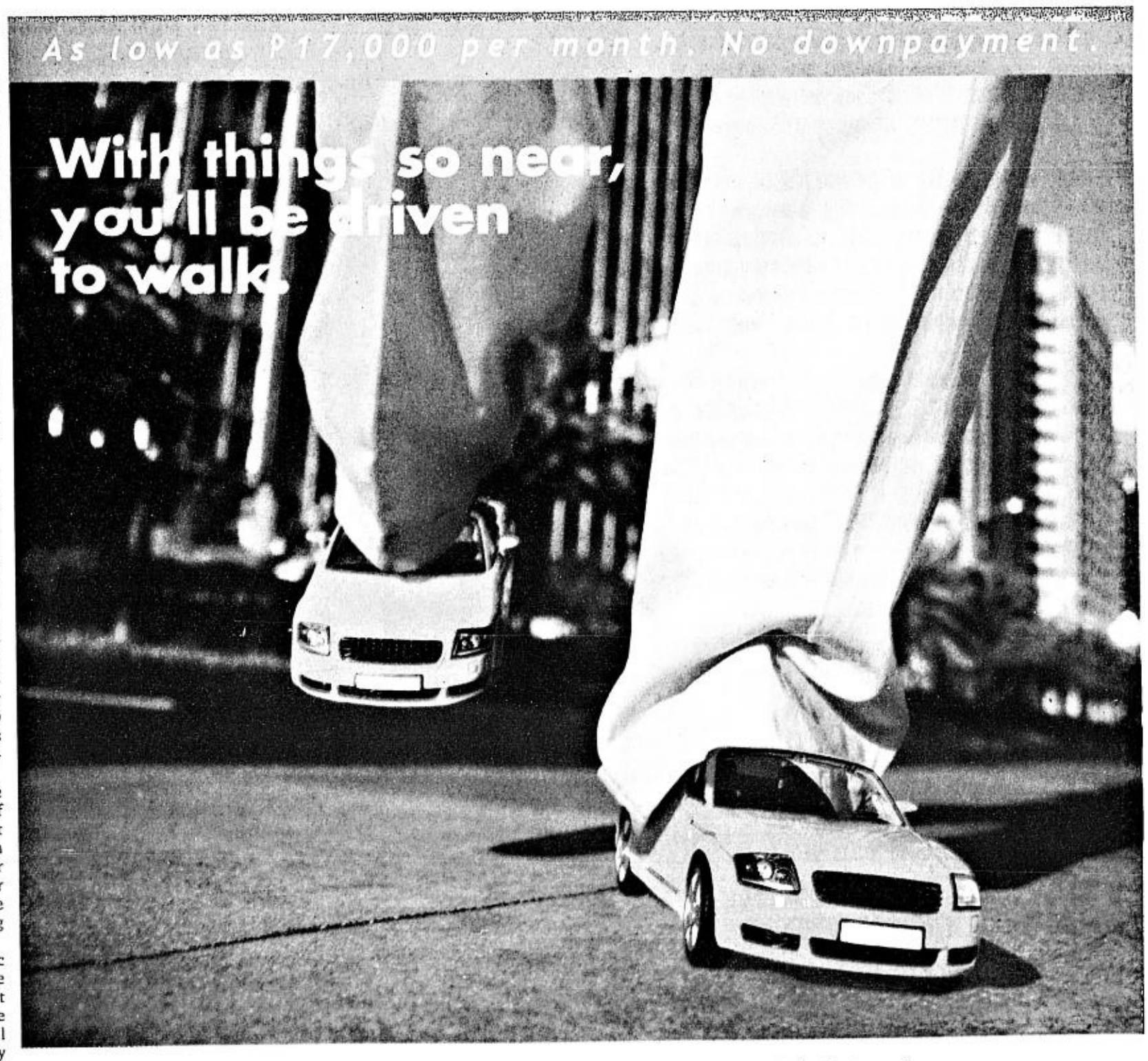

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US tanks move toward Najaf

NAJAF, Iraq—US tanks advanced to within 800 meters of the Imam Ali mosque in the Iraqi city of Najaf on Sunday after talks on surrendering control of the shrine at the center of an 18-day siege ran into trouble.

Hours earlier, a US military AC-130 gunship unleashed rapid cannon and howitzer fire on positions held by rebels loyal to firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who remain in control of the gold-domed shrine in defiance of the Iraqi government.

North of Baghdad, a suicide car bomb blew up near a convoy carrying Iraqi officials near the town of Baquba, killing two people and wounding eight, a police officer said.

The US operation in Najaf came as negotiators tried to end a Shiite Muslim rebellion led by Sadr's Mehdi fighters that has helped push world oil prices to record highs.

Mehdi rebels fired mortars at US positions and the sound of gunfire crackled from near the shrine inside the old city, where the situation remained tense, a Reuters witness said.

The attacks on Najaf overnight lit the area with white flashes. Smoke drifted over the old city near rebel positions, and flashes were seen on the outskirts of the city.

Despite an offer by the renegade Sadr to hand the shrine over to the Shiite cleric establishment, radical militiamen remained defiantly in control of the compound and the warren of streets leading to it.

The uprising, which has killed hundreds and touched off clashes in seven other cities, is a challenge to the authority of the interim government of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, who took over from US-led occupiers two months ago.

Any takeover of the mosque by security forces could infuriate Iraq's majority Shiite population and further destabilize the country ahead of scheduled elections in January.

The mosque is the holiest Shiite shrine in Iraq.

The car bomber near Baquba, a hotbed of anti-US resistance, appeared to have been targeting Ghasan al-Ghadren, the town's deputy mayor, police said. The official was slightly wounded, the health ministry said. *Reuters*

Pakistan foils Qaida assassinations plot

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan has busted an al-Qaida linked plot to kill high profile civil and military officials and attack key sites including the US Embassy and the military headquarters, officials said Sunday.

The government said intelligence agencies had arrested around a dozen local and foreign militants who hatched the plot to launch strikes on Aug. 13 and Pakistan's 57th Independence Day celebrated on Aug. 14.

The targets included "the parliament, the military headquarters, Prime Minister House, Presidency, US Embassy and the Chief of Army Staff house," which is the residence of President Pervez Musharraf as army chief, Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat said.

"Their plan was to carry out physical assaults on important civil and military dignitaries using sophisticated weapons and hand grenades," Hayat told AFP early Sunday.

"Security agencies recovered rockets, electronic gadgets and explosives usually used in suicide bombings."

The targets were all in the capital Islamabad and its twin city, Rawalpindi.

Hayat said the arrests were made between Aug. 11 and 15 and the plot had been masterminded by an Egyptian al-Qaida suspect named Sheikh Esa alias Qari Ismail. Security officials were unable to confirm whether the Egyptian was also among those arrested.

The arrests marked the latest major success in a stepped up crackdown launched by Pakistani security agencies in July. More than 60 suspects, among them some key al-Qaida operatives, have been detained.

MUSHARRAF AFP

"It is a big achievement of Pakistani intelligence agencies which carried out daring raids at serious personal risks to foil the sinister plan," said the head of the National Crises Management Cell Brigadier, Javed Cheema.

Information Minister Sheikh Rashid told a news conference late Saturday the conspiracy if successfully executed could have killed hundreds of people.

"These people were planning to carry out destructive and bloody terrorist attacks during a weeklong time starting from Aug. 13," he said.

Rashid said the huge cache of arms and ammunition recovered from the suspects included bombs, grenades, rockets, rocket launchers, detonators and around 50 explosive devices.

"We are looking for three or four more suspects in connection with the plot."

Interior Minister Hayat gave no reason why the announcement of the arrests was delayed.

Hayat said the leader of Islamabad's Lal Mosque Abdul Rashid Ghazi was the main coordinator in the planning. It was not clear whether Ghazi was among those arrested.

Ghazi was already wanted in connection with a religious edict he and some clerics had issued a few months ago against Pakistani military operations in the tribal region near the Afghan border to catch al-Qaida-linked fugitives.

"Ghazi was the main communicator between the Egyptian al-Qaida operative and other men involved in the plot," Hayat said.

"He (Ghazi) met with the Egyptian mastermind in the northwestern city of Abbotabad on Aug. 4 to shape up the plot."

In mid-July, Pakistani intelligence arrested al-Qaida's Pakistani computer expert Naeem Noor Khan from the eastern city of Lahore and two weeks later Tanzanian Ahmad Khalfan Ghailani, indicted in the 1998 twin bombings of US embassies in east Africa, was also captured.

Information gleaned from the two key operatives led to disclosure of plots to launch attacks in Pakistan, the United States and Britain.

Musharraf, a key US ally in the war on terror, survived two assassination attempts on him in December last year. He has blamed al-Qaida for masterminding the attacks on him.

Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz, who is to be sworn in as prime minister next week, survived an al-Qaida linked assassination attempt on July 30. Nine people were killed in the suicide attack. *AFP*

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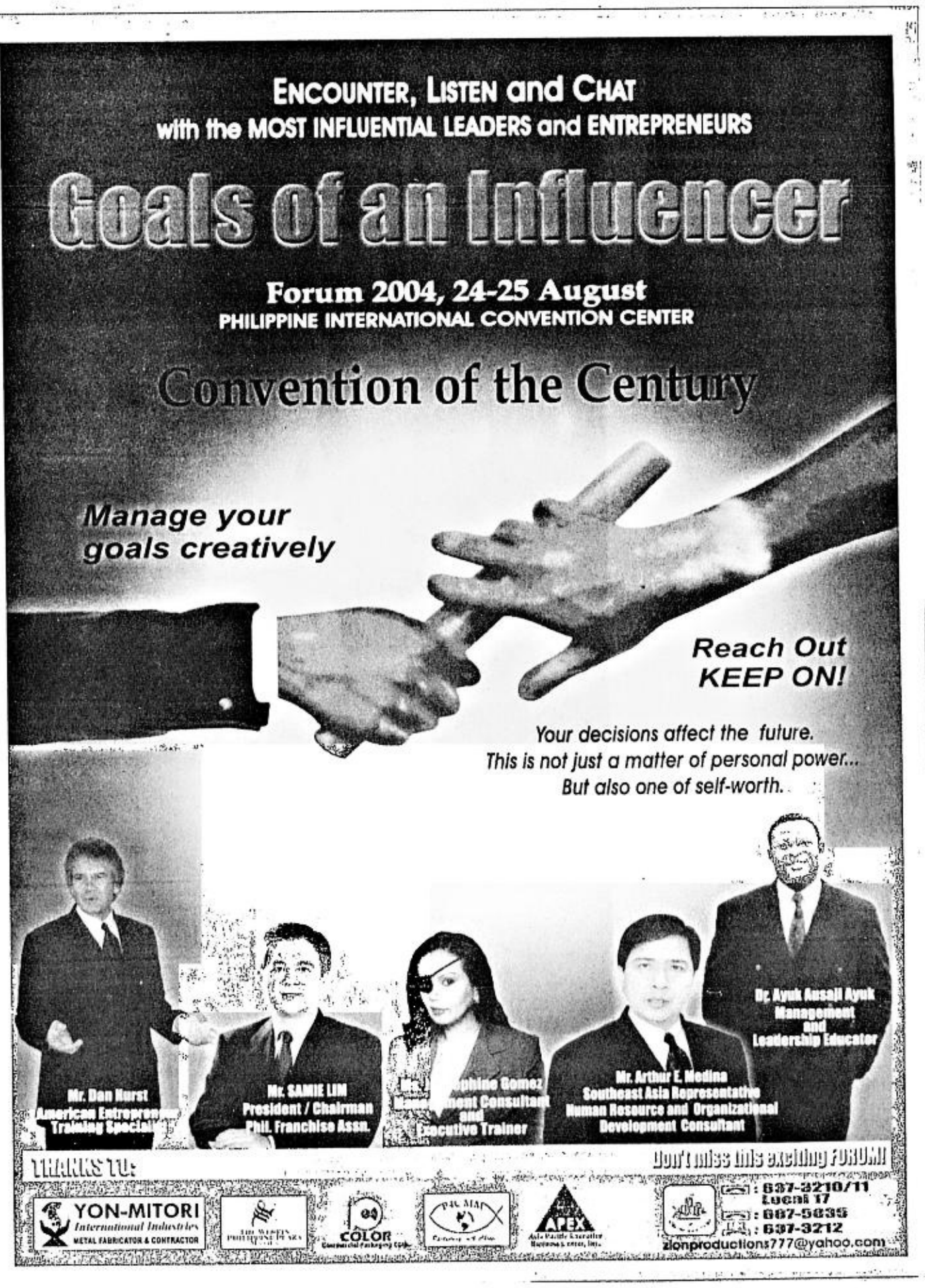

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Audit says Chavez won fairly

CARACAS, Venezuela—An audit of Venezuela's referendum results has confirmed President Hugo Chavez won the poll fairly and found no evidence to support the opposition's claims of massive vote rigging, international observers said on Saturday.

Monitors agreed to the additional checks after Chavez opponents rejected the results and said electronic voting machines were manipulated to give the left-wing leader a victory in the Aug. 15 vote on whether he should step down.

"The results we have obtained with this check are totally compatible with electoral council results," Organization of American States chief Cesar Gaviria told reporters.

"We are not saying categorically there was no fraud; what we are saying is that we have not found any. ... We are happy with the checks we have done."

Observers had hoped the referendum would end more than two years of bitter political conflict between Chavez and the opposition, which says he is driving the world's No. 5 oil exporter toward Cuba-style communism.

The audit checked paper confirmation ballots against electronic vote results in 150 polling stations and found small discrepancies and no evidence of tampering, monitors said.

Still, Gaviria said the OAS would examine any evidence the opposition presented in an effort to help dispel doubts.

"If they keep up with this today, it will be difficult for the country to reconcile differences. That is why it is important for them to work to clear up these doubts," he said.

The fraud charges have stoked fears of instability in Venezuela, a top oil supplier to the United States. After observers ratified the result on Monday, opposition leaders refused to take part in the audit, which they said would fail to uncover manipulation of automatic machines. *Reuters*

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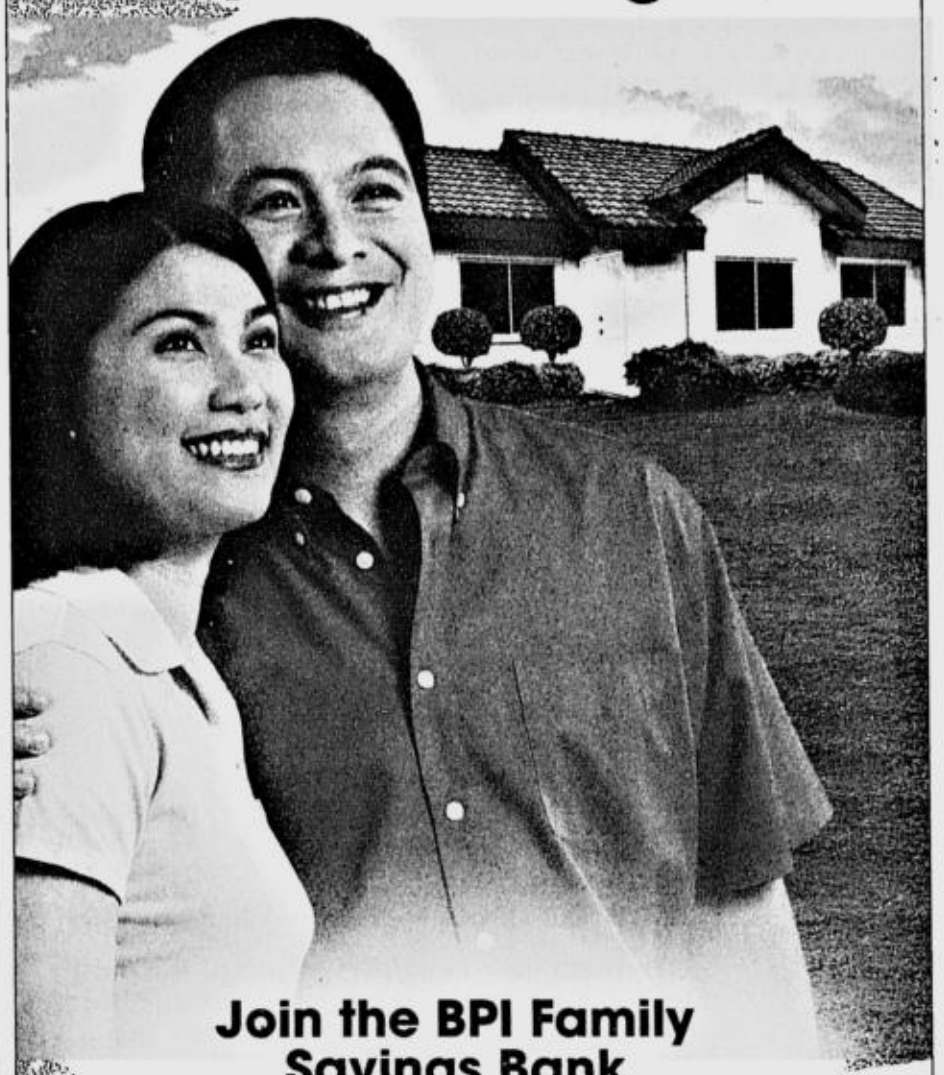
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Sudan signs deal ensuring return of 1M refugees

KHARTOUM—Sudan on Saturday signed an agreement to ensure the voluntary return of more than one million people displaced by fighting in the Darfur region and said it was giving Darfuris more say in local government.

Sudan, under threat of possible sanctions, has less than two weeks to prove to the UN Security Council it is taking action to improve security in remote Darfur, where a rebellion has raged since February last year.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail said the agreement on internally displaced people (IDPs) with the United Nations should help reassure the international community.

Rebels and aid workers say the Sudanese authorities have sometimes tried to force displaced people home against their will. The Sudanese government denies the allegation.

"Of course this first of all will revoke any queries about whether the return of the IDPs is voluntary or involuntary. We have an international organization who will supervise the return," Ismail told reporters.

He added the government had begun to form a native Darfuri administration to work in coordination with the local government until local elections are held.

He said a peace agreement to end a separate conflict in the south stated that there would be elections in all the states of Sudan to elect government officials.

The Darfur revolt broke out after years of conflict between Arab nomads and African farmers over scarce resources. Rebels say Khartoum has armed Arab militia known as Janjaweed to loot and burn villages in a campaign of ethnic cleansing.

Khartoum denies the charge and calls the Janjaweed outlaws.

The UN says the fighting has sparked the world's worst humanitarian crisis with about 200,000 refugees in neighboring Chad and more than one million displaced inside Sudan.

The UN humanitarian coordinator for Sudan, Manuel Aranda da Silva, said he was encouraged by Sudan's actions to improve the humanitarian situation in Darfur, but said the main obstacle to reaching all those in need was capacity and funding.

"I am very encouraged by the fact that the capabilities on the ground are increasing," he told reporters, adding there was still a long way to go. "I feel that a lot of effort is being made on the part of the government." Asked what was stopping humanitarian agencies reaching the estimated half a million or so who are still in need of aid, Da Silva said: "The main problem is capacity."

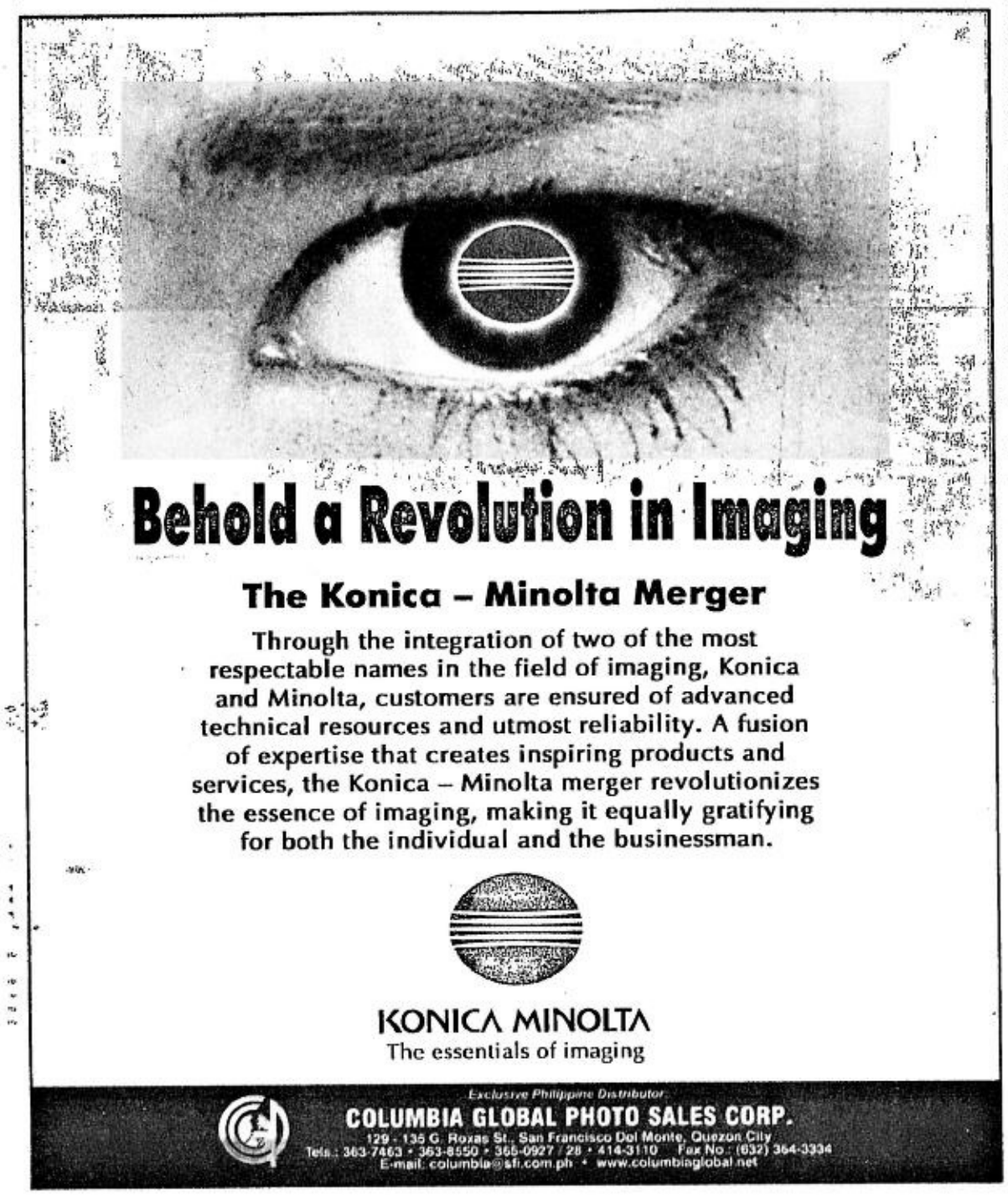
Ismail said he had asked US Secretary of State Colin Powell to exempt train spare parts from US sanctions imposed on Sudan about 10 years ago, to facilitate a cheaper way to take aid to Darfur.

Sudan hosted al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in the 1990s and the United States lists it as a "state sponsor of terrorism."

Da Silva said 12 safe areas to be established by the government should not be at the expense of security in other areas of Darfur.

Ismail said Sudan had already begun to deploy police to the safe areas and redeploy armed forces around them to prevent militia attacks on refugees. *Reuters*

A SUDANESE refugee cries after reaching Bahai on the Chad border after fleeing political violence in Darfur Sudan in this July 9, 2004 photo. At least 1.2 million black Africans have fled the Darfur region because mostly Arab militias have killed thousands of civilians in response to a rebellion. AP



19 killed as explosions rock B'desh rally; mob burns train

DHAKA, Bangladesh—An angry mob set fire to a passenger train in central Bangladesh Sunday, injuring at least 20 people, in retaliation for a grenade attack on an opposition rally that killed 19 people and wounded hundreds, police said.

The train was traveling to the capital, Dhaka, from southeastern Chittagong city, police said.

Riot police fired tear gas shells to disperse the protesters near Bhairab town, 80 kilometers east of Dhaka, said Fazlul Huq, chief traffic controller of state-run Bangladesh Railways.

Police said at least 20 people were wounded in the train attack.

On Saturday, the country's main opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina, escaped injury when about a dozen bombs exploded as she addressed supporters outside her Awami League party's headquarters in Dhaka.

However, Hasina suffered "internal bleeding in one of her ears" because of the loud explosions, said her physician Pran Gopal Krishna.

"We have given her some medication and advised her a week of rest," Krishna told reporters Sunday after the medical checkup.

In that attack, at least 19 people were killed and more than 300 injured, including senior opposition members, ATN Bangla TV station reported Sunday. The toll increased after another injured man died in a hospital, it said.

In the capital, police recovered two unexploded bombs from inside Dhaka Central Jail and at a market outside it, an official said on condition of anonymity.

Traffic was light on the city's streets as many schools and shops were closed for fear of more violence.

US Ambassador Harry K. Thomas met with Hasina at her residence to express sympathy over the attack.

"Those responsible for the blasts should be brought to justice," Thomas told reporters as he emerged from the meeting.

Doctors were overwhelmed and appealed for blood. Many people were critically wounded in the blasts and the number of dead could rise, they said.

No one claimed responsibility, but Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil said Hasina was the target. The rally was called to protest a series of explosions early this month that killed two people, including an opposition supporter, in the northeastern city of Sylhet.

Shops and schools closed in about a dozen Bangladeshi towns Sunday to protest the latest attacks. *AP*

Putin in Chechnya after battles

VLADIKAVKAZ, Russia—Russian President Vladimir Putin made an unannounced visit to Chechnya on Sunday, laying flowers at the grave of the war-ravaged region's assassinated president a week before a vote to replace him.

Putin arrived early in the morning in slain Chechen President Akhmad Kadyrov's home village of Tsentoroi, Russian news agencies reported. He placed red carnations at Kadyrov's grave along with Kadyrov's son Ramzan and the Kremlin's favored candidate in the Aug. 29 election, regional Interior Minister Alu Alkhanov.

Putin's visit followed heavy fighting Saturday night in the Chechen capital Grozny, where authorities said rebels attacked a police station near a central square as well a police patrols and a polling station for next week's vote.

Accounts of casualties varied. The fighting at the police station left seven police and nine civilians dead, an official in Chechnya's Moscow-backed government said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said more than 10 other bodies had been found but not yet identified.

Three police were killed and six wounded in attacks on patrols in Grozny, the official said, and one polling place came under fire from a grenade launcher.

A duty officer at Chechnya's Interior Ministry said that one policeman had been killed and another taken captive by the attackers.

A spokesperson for Russia's military campaign in Chechnya, Maj. Gen. Ilya Shabalkin, said some 50 militants were killed, the Itar-Tass and Interfax news agencies reported. Itar-Tass initially quoted Shabalkin as saying 16 civilians were killed, but later he said they were injured. The figures could not be independently confirmed. Both Russian forces and rebels often overestimate casualties on the other side.

Interfax quoted Shabalkin as saying that the bodies of 18 rebels were collected and that 12 rebels were detained. He said the number of deaths among servicemen and Chechen police totaled 12.

Putin's visit came a day before Akhmad Kadyrov's birthday. While many Chechens feared or disliked Kadyrov, a former separatist who became the Kremlin's most powerful ally in the region, Russian and Chechen officials have lionized him since his death.

"We lost a sincere, courageous, talented and decent person," Itar-Tass quoted Putin as saying at the grave in Tsentoroi. "He had no other aim but one—to serve his people. *AP*

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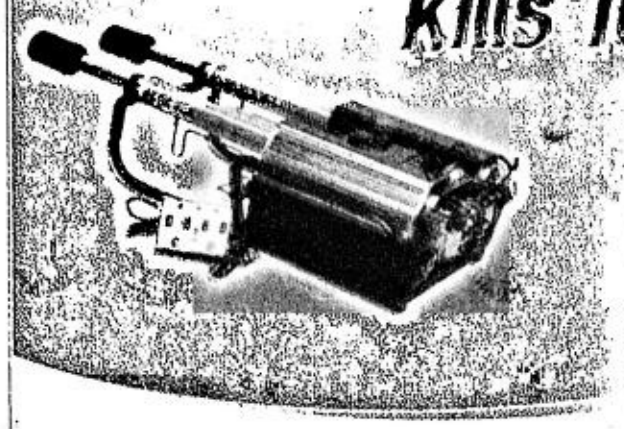

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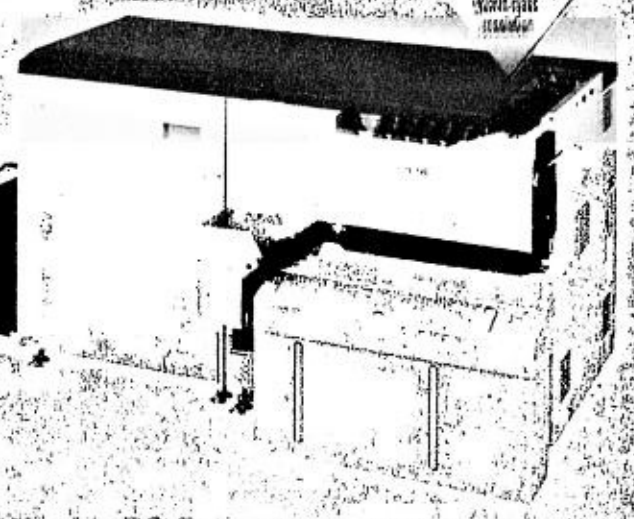

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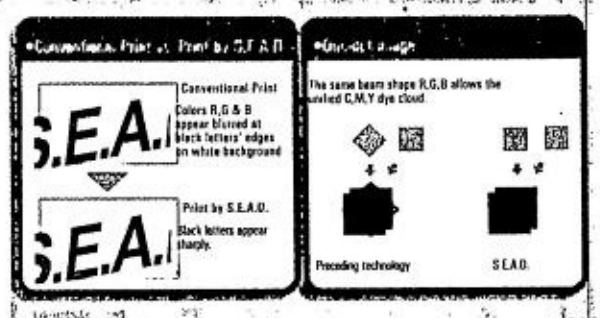

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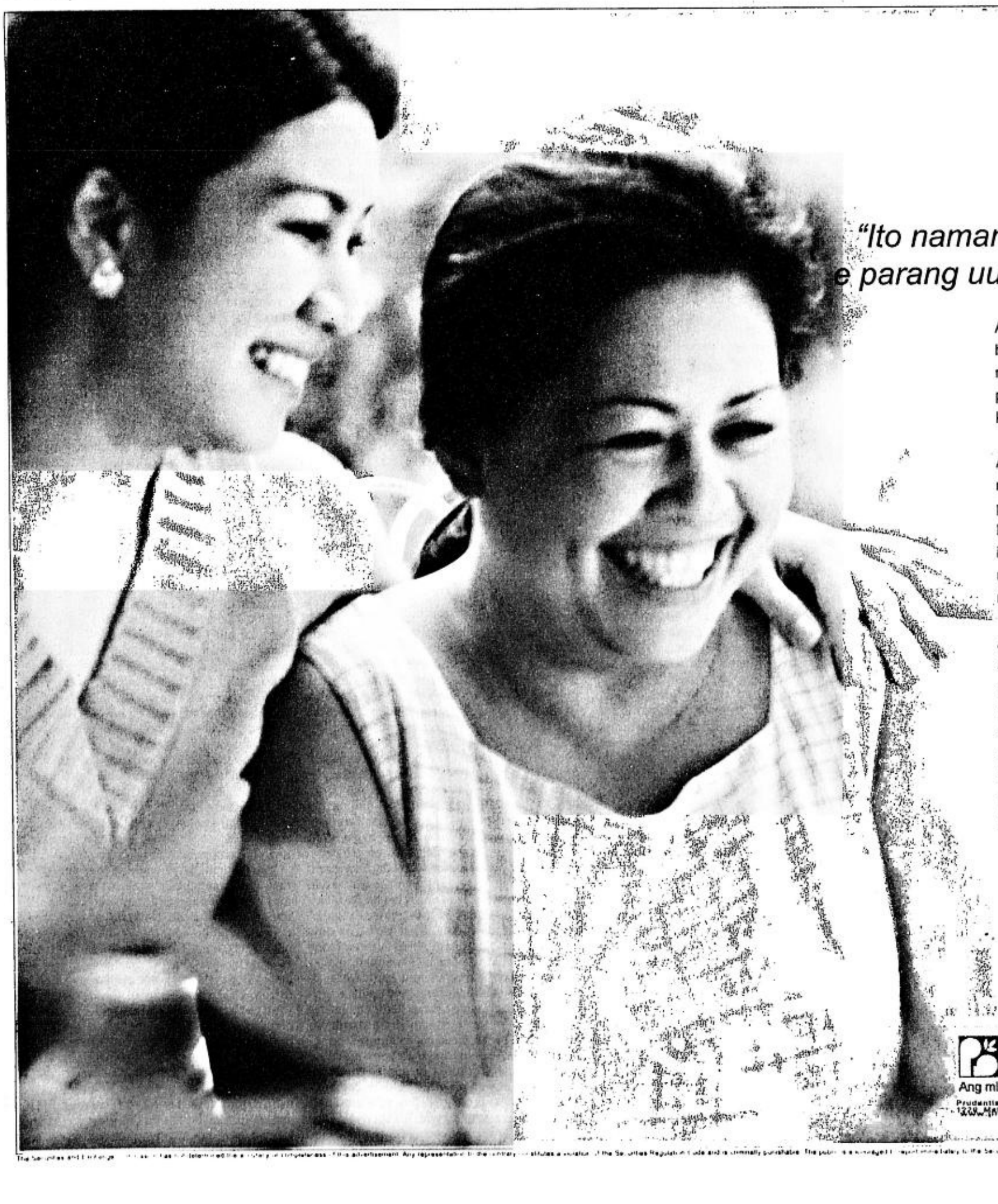

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OPINION

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Three appointments

EDITORIAL

THE CABINET revamp continues to roil the political waters. Many appointments have been criticized—by this newspaper, among others—for lacking a sense of the greater good.

Instead of daring, we have sheer brazenness: some appointments (Justice, Tourism, Education) have political payback written all over them. Instead of inspiration, we have a tired cynicism (for instance, the naming of the man ultimately responsible for the worst national-security breach since Sept. 11—Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi's escape from Camp Crame— as the country's new national security adviser). And instead of new blood, we have the same old faces.

Three appointments, in particular, have generated the most controversy.

Avelino Cruz's appointment to the defense portfolio seems like a bold attempt to reinvigorate the principle of civilian supremacy over the military.

Cruz himself has asserted that his appointment was in keeping with a key recommendation of both the Davide and Feliciano post-mutiny fact-finding commissions; to wit, that a civilian head the Department of National Defense.

But does civilian supremacy mean any civilian would do?

To be sure, Cruz is no ordinary civilian. As chief presidential legal counsel, he belonged to President Macapagal-Arroyo's inner circle. As a founding member of "The Firm," one of the country's most influential law offices, he is in his own right a center of power. But Malacañang's own explanation for his appointment doesn't go beyond the fact that he is a civilian, with management experience.

The last true civilian to head the government's second largest bureaucracy—we do not include retired generals who were returned to the defense department in their ill-fitting civilian clothes—was Orlando Mercado. As the campaign manager behind Joseph Estrada's landslide, Mercado enjoyed unusual access to the new President. Given the personalistic nature of Philippine politics, a close relationship to the chief executive may well be the most important qualification of any department secretary.

But Mercado was not only a friend of Estrada's. He was also a colleague in the Senate, who headed the defense committee for many years. He had a demonstrated familiarity with defense and national security issues. The same cannot be said of Cruz.

It is good that Cruz has already signaled his intent to let the budget department handle the Armed Forces' procurement requirements. This will allow him to focus on the military's long-term needs. But whether he is the right civilian for the job remains to be seen.

On the other hand, the post that does need legal expertise has gone to a non-lawyer. The new executive secretary, Eduardo Ermita, has served in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, directed the peace process, and headed the DND. He had also been elected thrice to Congress. In another age, his diverse experience would have been enough recommendation.

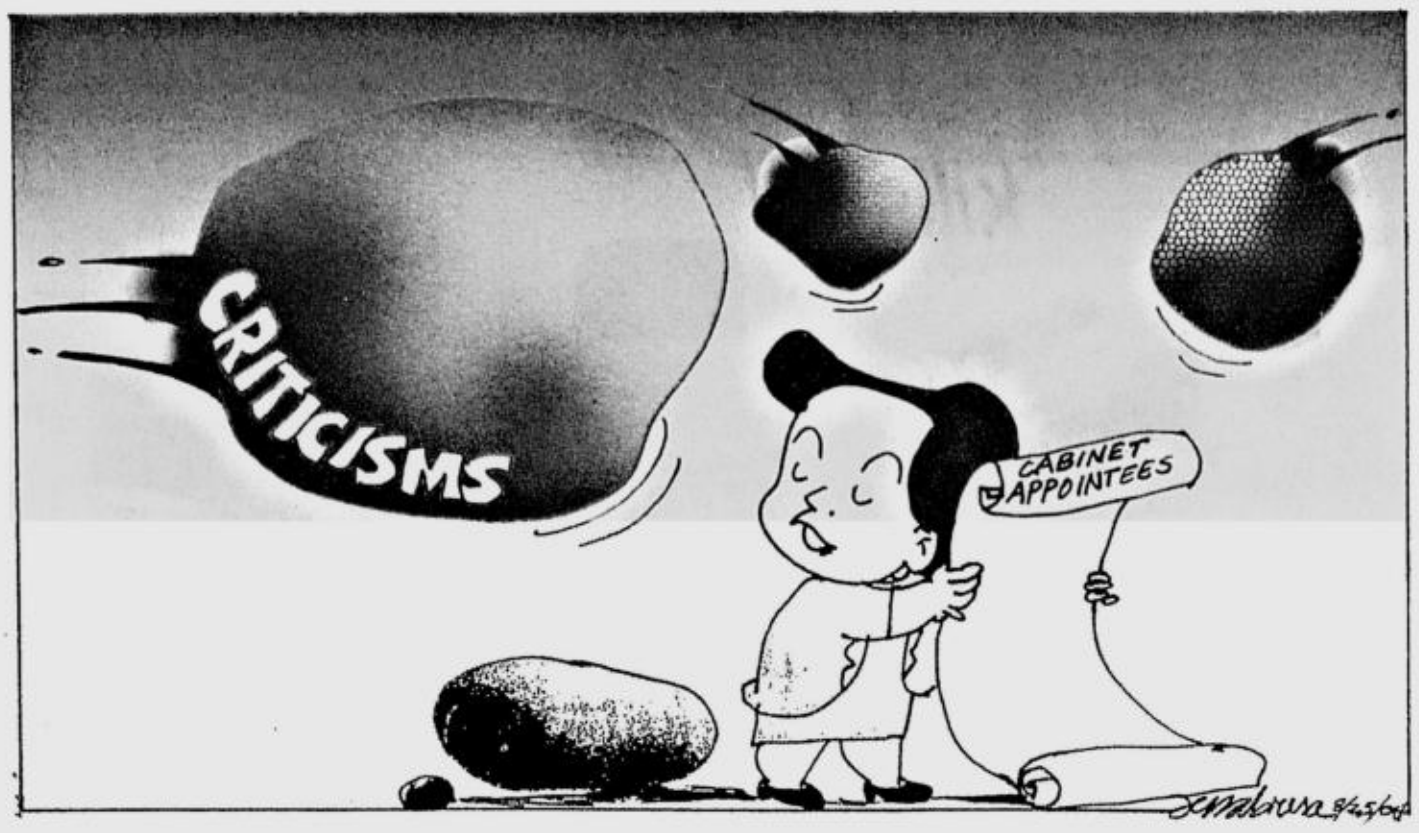
But in our time, the post of executive secretary requires not only legal competence, but what we might call legal cunning. The litany of anomalous government contracts provides unambiguous proof: the crooked and the corrupt can manipulate legal language to their own advantage.

Ermita, for all his years in government service, may therefore find that he is out of his depth as "Little President," overly dependent on the kindness of lawyers.

It does not need a lawyer to know that the appointment of Raul Gonzalez as justice secretary is a grievous mistake; it undermines the very office he is being appointed to.

Because of his role in the Estrada impeachment trial and the recent presidential canvass in Congress, Gonzalez is perceived as partisan for the President. There is no necessary shame in that, except that the position of justice secretary requires a top-notch lawyer who is not only and actually above party interests, but is perceived to be so.

The blindfold, of course, is one of the essential symbols of justice. Gonzalez's appointment as justice secretary has raised fears that the blindfold will be lowered on occasion, to determine which unlucky cases will be marked "Noted."



They shoot dogs, don't they?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

CHANNEL 7 recently had a show that horrified television viewers; it wasn't a horror movie but a real-life show. "Jessica Soho Reports" showed stray dogs being shot mercilessly in the streets of Marinduque. The purpose was to curb the spread of rabies. (The Philippines has one of the highest rates of rabies infection in the world.) The purpose of the massacre is laudable but the method is not, and it has angered many citizens.

In the first place, the shooting of stray dogs is illegal. The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) provides for the humane dispatch of dogs and other animals. Even when shooting is necessary, the law spells out how it should be done.

In a letter written after the show to Marinduque Gov. Carmencita Reyes, Oscar Lei, director and shelter manager of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), enumerated why the indiscriminate shooting is illegal. (Incidentally, some other provinces and cities are also shooting and poisoning stray dogs. It is for their and other officials' information that I am quoting excerpts from the letter.)

1. Administrative Order 21 of the Animal Welfare Act:

"In case a firearm is used, the following are required: 1) only licensed firearms shall be used: 2) only sharpshooters and members of the Philippine National Police and Gun Club deputized by the Bureau of Animal Industry and authorized by concerned local government unit shall perform this duty."

2. Section 1.1.5, AO-21:

"Firearms with no less than calibre .22 using non-expansive bullets may be used provided that the animal is pursued until death (target area: head or heart).

But what thousands of horrified viewers saw were terrified dogs shot in the legs and body, with some coughing out blood, while struggling to flee their assailants; this so-called "Death Squad" was led by no less than the city veterinarian himself.

"Many angry people demanded to know why the city veterinarian and his group were shooting dogs when all veterinarians are sworn in their veterinarian oath to protect the welfare of animals?" Lei asked in his letter.

Section 6 of RA-8485:

"The killing of the animals shall be done through humane procedures at all times."

"For this purpose, humane procedures shall mean the use of the most scientific methods available as may be determined and approved by the Committee. Only those procedures approved by the Committee shall be used in killing of animals."

The killing done in Marinduque is anything but humane. "Based of the above information, all those involved in the shooting could be cited for violation of Section 6 of RA-8485. In addition, the city vet may also have violated the Veterinary Act of 2004," Lei informed Governor Reyes.

On the problem of rabies, the root cause can be traced to irresponsible pet ownership. That, not stray dogs, is the cause of the spread of rabies, said Lei. He added that "PAWS has regularly approached local officials, with offers of helping address this problem through the enactment of humane and effective animal control regulations. Sadly, many officials tend to treat the issue lightly, not even deserving their attention. It is only when problems, like rabies, erupt, that they react (i.e. shooting and poisoning dogs). Have any of our local officials ever wondered why, in spite of the numerous rabies-vaccination campaigns, the Philippines still ranks as one of the countries with a very high incidence of rabies? It is because our approach is nearly always "reactive" never "preventive".

"This is not a question of who is more important, people or animals. The question should be:what has government done to humanely address the over-population of unwanted animals, the irresponsible keeping and breeding of dogs, the control of animal roaming the streets, the monitoring of the health of pet animals, and the dissemination of relevant information to the public concerning the danger of animal-related diseases?"

An information pamphlet about rabies produced by the Department of Health shows that based on data from San Lazaro Hospital for the period 1982-2002, dogs contribute 98 percent of biting incidence, **but**, of this percentage, only 10 percent came from strays—the 88 percent were from pets.

Lei explains why most biting incidents come from pets? "It is because pets protect their territory. Stray dogs seldom 'own' territory; in fact, more often than not, they run when confronted by people."

On the numerous stray dogs, may I add that again the root cause is irresponsible pet owners. Many dog owners—even in upscale subdivisions, where educated people supposedly live—let their pets out of their yards to roam the streets where they run the risk of being run over by vehicles, getting poisoned or contracting disease. Others purposely cast away their unwanted dogs and cats.

"Contrary to what some people may think," Lei wrote, "Animal Welfare believes that all kinds of life are precious and should be treated with kindness and respect." Mahatma Gandhi said that "the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way it treats its animals" and that "the weaker the animal, the more it is entitled to the protection of man, from the cruelties of man."

"Madam Governor, you are in the best position to correct this tragic situation" the PAWS' shelter manager wrote. "In spite of this your unfortunate shooting incident, PAWS is willing to assist in formulating an effective and humane solution to the problem associated with stray animals. All we asked for in return is the willingness on the part of our local government to listen and act, by ensuring that no more violence will be committed against our animals in the future."

Winning

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FOR A WHILE there, Jasmin Figueroa provided a spark for the Filipino contingent in Athens. She became an overnight sensation by beating two-time Olympic medalist Natalia Valeeva of Italy in, of all things, archery. This country has never had a tradition of archery, let alone shown excellence in it. For Figueroa to have done what she did in Panathenaiko Stadium, home to feats of archery since ancient times, it was a victory worth savoring.

Alas, the savoring would not last very long. A couple of days later, Spain's Almudena Gallardo broke the Filipinos' hearts by beating Figueroa in a tightly fought match. When the smoke cleared, the score read 152-150. Figueroa rallied furiously after a shaky start and almost caught up with the Spaniard, who faltered in the face of her blistering advance. Unfortunately, it was not enough, Gallardo escaped with the win. Tired but undaunted, Figueroa looked forward to Beijing, where she promised to do better, having gained experience and lessons in Athens.

As I write this, there remains a glimmer of hope in Harry Tañamor, who has just outscored Tajikistan's Sherali Dostiev in flyweight boxing. Some days ago, the country was pinning its hopes on Violito Payla, who had been doing well and was expected to hurdle his next opponent, Tulashboy Doniyorov of Uzbekistan, whom he had beaten twice before. But shocker of shockers, Payla instead ended up on the canvas in the second round after being rocked by an uppercut. It was a reminder yet again that in boxing, as in other sports, you don't just win with your hands, or other parts of your body, you win with your head. As the great Flash Elorde used to say in the beer ad, "*Wag naman bara-bara bay.*"

All this has brought out lamentations from a country desperate for a win to boost its self-confidence, or indeed to just find a reason to feel good about itself. Lamentations and the usual grief-stricken questions about what we've done wrong, why is God punishing us. I must confess though that I am not entirely surprised by the way things have gone, even if I thrill like every other Filipino to the sight of a Figueroa or Tañamor battling enormous odds and giving me to hope against hope they might pull off a miracle. Despite the rosy predictions given by our sports officials shortly before our contingent left for Greece, I had a sinking feeling the parade at the opening ceremonies, when our flag would fly resplendently over the soil that birthed civilization, would be our highest point in the Games.

That was so because I thought our approach to the Olympics reflected an attitude that has been the bane not just of our sports but of our lives. Which ultimately has longer and farther reaching implications than for our future in sports alone: It bears on our future as a nation.

That attitude is the obliviousness to, or refusal to acknowledge, the fact that other countries are getting better at the things we used to excel in. The rude awakening began with basketball, the one sport we thought we could not be beaten in all of Asia. That isn't true anymore, as the Southeast Asian Games alone show. But what applies to basketball applies now as well to boxing, the one sport we've always pinned our hopes for a gold medal on every Olympics or Asian Games. Other countries have gotten better at it, no small thanks to their striving with more perseverance and industry, and with help from their governments.

Beyond the Olympics, or sports generally, that applies as well for other fields of competition the Filipino is compelled to face, especially those that have to do with his survival. That is increasingly becoming true for popular music, which is Western-based, and which, like basketball, we've excelled in from having been an American colony—or indeed from continuing to be so. That and having an exceptionally good ear, or *oido*, whose origins I leave others to trace. In the past, that had resulted in Filipino musicians being in tremendous demand in various parts of Asia, including the Middle East. It was not uncommon to see signs in hotels in many parts of Asia that proclaimed proudly, "Filipino band playing." That was advertisement enough in itself.

That's being pushed back now not just by karaoke but by many homegrown talents in Asia. No small thanks too to the fact that the musicians there are able to fuse Western pop music with their own musical traditions and explore the possibilities of digital technology. I remember that some years ago Time Magazine carried a cover story about the pop music revolution that was going on in the world, particularly with the aid of cyberspace, and said nothing about the Philippines while mentioning Thailand and an Arab country, I think, as breaking new ground. I've said it before, we don't watch out, or we don't explore new possibilities as ferociously as other countries, we'll lose our comparative advantage there.

The Filipino is talented, no doubt about that. I remember again what an editor of a major Singapore daily told me, which is that Filipino illustrators and layout artists were much in demand in his country. But we can't rest on our laurels there. Time doesn't stand still, other countries are trying to get better and do get better every day. It's not as if everything is frozen, it's just up to us to decide when we want to improve. The world is moving and at a dizzying pace, and if we don't move along with it, or faster, we are going to be left behind. The Olympics, or sports, are just a tip of the iceberg. All of life lies underneath it.

We don't strive to be better every time, or try to do so only at the last minute, we're bound to end up like Payla, flat on the floor, dazed and confused, wondering why all the world has suddenly gotten taller.

Don't be selective on GFI investigations

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SENATE Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel has filed a resolution seeking an investigation into the role the Government Service Insurance System, Social Service System and other government financial institutions (GFIs) might have played in the controversial Smokey Mountain development and reclamation project; more specifically the losses the GFIs might have incurred there (e.g., the SSS is reported to have bankrolled that project to the tune of P1.9 billion). Sen. Pimentel said this is to "ensure the accountability and transparency of these GFIs in managing funds and other assets under their custody."

The Senate has expressed a desire to look into the GFIs' investments in the light of reports that the SSS wants to increase the premium rates of its members to help solve its fiscal problems. An investigation into the GFIs' role in the Smokey Mountain project is well and good, but Senator Pimentel shouldn't be selective. He should also investigate the way the GFIs behaved during the time of former President Estrada, such as when SSS funds were used to buy into Equitable Bank and huge blocs of shares of the BW Resources. Some of these questionable investments in Erap's time were said to have become so highly disadvantageous to the government that *kumalog ang mga* GFIs; up to now, they are still paying for the consequences of their fiscal recklessness. Alas, however, up to now no full public disclosure has been made of the GFIs' investments in that era. No responsible officials have been prosecuted either.

* * *

It was an innocuous resolution: the legislative calendar of the first session of the 13th Congress, a matter senators and congressmen don't bother much about; and usually left to the majority and minority leaders to decide. This has been the practice over the years and our legislators generally adopt it without debate. But not this year.

An amended calendar was proposed delineating the session months and adjournment months more clearly. Every quarter, the equivalent of two months would be devoted to session days; the remaining days, an equivalent of one month, to adjournment days. There would be no reduction in the number of session days or an increase in the number of adjournment days.

* * *

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile stood up to object, insisting on the reduction of the first one-month adjournment to two weeks because the Senate had to work overtime due to the need to pass the budget. If the Enrile proposal had been accepted, the entire two-month, one-month formula would have gone haywire. Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan rejected it, noting that most of the budget deliberations are due at the committee level anyway and senators can work on the budget during adjournment, as they usually do. Besides, the total number of working days would not be reduced but, in fact, slightly increased.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña supported Enrile and asked for a nominal or roll-call vote to identify those "not willing to work" by the vote they cast. Stung, neophyte Sen. Lito Lapid rose after the vote to lament that the minority had turned the incident into a "*pelikula*" with "good guys and bad guys"—those voting for the measure as the bad guys and those against as the good guys.

* * *

The voting on the re-arranged calendar went practically along party lines. All majority senators present voted for it while the minority, except for Senator Pimentel, voted against. Pimentel voted for the resolution because as minority leader he had previously agreed to the measure, which historically was never debated. After the vote, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada crossed the aisle and told the majority senators, "I could have voted with you, but the resolution does not benefit me at all. I cannot take a vacation because I have a hold order over my head." The senators burst into laughter and that broke the tension.

But the ill effects were there for all to see: the majority and the minority split so ominously on a very minor issue; one wonders how the tougher tax measures might go. The majority showed its strength in numbers, even as the minority was deserted by its leader who stood by his word with the majority leader.

* * *

Philippine National Police Dep. Dir. Gen. Edgar Aglipay, who was recently named to replace PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane, was quoted as saying in the media that he will not seek an "extension" of his tour of duty when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Sept. 13. Out of delicadeza, Egay Aglipay, always a gentleman, won't lift a finger to be extended in office. But this won't prevent the President, who obviously has a lot of confidence in him, from doing just that. Under the law, the only PNP official whose term can be extended is the PNP chief's. Extending Aglipay's term makes a lot of sense: first, to prevent the PNP from returning to the "revolving door" system; second, so that he can have all the time to introduce reforms to strengthen the PNP.

* * *

I was heartened by the gentlemanly act of one of Aglipay's key rivals, his PMA '71 mistah, Philippine Center on Transnational Crime executive director Reynaldo Velasco who, upon hearing of Aglipay's appointment to the top post, rallied the 115,000-strong organization to unite behind the new chief and support him. "Let us respect our commander in chief's decision and unite behind her choice," Velasco said, adding: "At this time, our country and the police organization cannot afford disunity, if we are to ensure that the government's peace and order programs are on track and implemented for the sake of the 84 million Filipinos." I wish every aspirant to any post would be as sport as Rey Velasco.

'Pulong-pulong, turo-turo, ukay-ukay'

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

A RATHER confused reader wrote to ask what I made of this series of *pulong-bayan* being conducted by the most desirable woman in the country—Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whom "all men in the Philippines" would like to make *beso-beso* with.

Well, begging due understanding for my usual hyperboles—which are the only way one can write about such things—for one thing, this is reality TV that beats all others of whatever network, rivaled in the ratings only by Dinky Soliman's teleserye.

This is where you have the chance to see GMA for all that she is, which of course is not entirely surprising, as it is what we have learned to expect whenever she is left without a teleprompter.

GMA is admittedly telegenic, and although her voice, manner of speaking, enunciation, verbal bloopers ("*anim na libong schoolhouses—ay, tatlong libo pala*") are a test of endurance for any boob-tube masochist, what you see is what you get. And you couldn't ask for more.

Here, you see how meticulous GMA is, fretting about the arrangement of the chairs and the backdrop of the stage, with as much passion as she displayed during her first televised soliloquy, remember? You know that "I will crush you" piece, complete with hand gestures, directed at the Abu Sayyaf. Sometime later, if I remember right, the ASG raided Dos Palmas and did an imitation of the Salome gift-giving with the head of hostage Guillermo Sobero on Independence Day.

That she is a strong leader is without question. Watch how she can, with much political will, subject her own Cabinet officials to public humiliation for even the most minor infractions (that backdrop, those chairs). How much more if she catches them committing such crimes as graft and corruption?

It is so reassuring to see how Cabinet secretaries, whose collective mantra is "I serve at the pleasure of the President," are in awe of her, as they should be to ensure perfect coordination and teamwork—as essential to smooth governance—when we witness labor secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas nodding at GMA's every word, like a doll whose head has gone unscrewed.

And best of all, we know that despite the Dinky episode, all's perfectly well with the two highest officials of the land, with Vice President Noli de Castro assuming the role of court jester, laughing heartily at every display of the Taray Queen quality, like when she issued a stern warning *sa lahat ng mga lalaki sa buong bansa* not to kiss her because she was "conservative."

But aside from the outburst and the laughter, these *pulong-pulong* are serious business because they fully demonstrate why GMA is called, at least in her own TV program, "The Working President" (as compared to that boozer with his so-called "midnight cabinet" and his well publicized "*para sa masa*" sentiments).

Because you couldn't get more grassroots than this, and if the entire episode is contrived and scripted as some say, it certainly doesn't show. The manner and method, rooted as it is in our culture, is governance at its most elementary, although I notice they have foregone sitting on the floor. Good decision. Rheumatism and arthritis have a way of creeping up on you in your most unguarded moments.

This is how it goes: GMA and De Castro preside over some kind of town meeting with selected constituents in the area, local government officials and selected members of the Cabinet. In so many words, GMA would tell them "you make *turo-turo* your problems and I will make *ukay-ukay* the solutions." Just like that. Nothing complicated, really.

Truth to tell, the complications in our lives are brought about by these profit-driven companies who keep on raising the prices of oil and all other commodities, these hardheaded couples who keep on coupling without counting, those past presidents who kept on making *utang*, a bureaucracy that keeps on spending but can't keep up with collecting except for themselves; the New People's Army, the National Democratic Front, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Abu Sayyaf, the Jemaah Islamiyah, Keanna Reeves, the opposition, Geroge W. Bush, Colin Powell, Donald Rumsfeld, Condoleeza Rice, and even those pesky leftist militants who keep on making monstrous papier mache figures as if they had nothing better to do with their time.

But not all is lost. The most sensible thing that has gotten into the news this week is the announcement by Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin about the joint resolution by Mindanao congressmen seeking to postpone the ARMM elections with very logical built-in conditions: there will be no hold-over capacities, and a new set of officials will be appointed to serve until the elections in May, who themselves will be barred from running in those elections to ensure that they cannot take advantage of their offices in pursuit of their electoral ambitions, if any.

Why didn't the framers of the Constitution think of something like this when they formulated the provisions on the presidency? Because they didn't contemplate accidents, aborted terms, *jueteng*, Chavit Singson and Dinky Soliman with her civil society?

But then, there is the Comelec that can't count both money and votes.

It is really time to appreciate the urgency of shifting to a federal system, before GMA makes good on her promise to Francis Ricciardone to make Mindanao "the most important front in the war on terrorism."

And this was said not in the *pulong*, but before the Manila Overseas Press Club. You can't get any more serious than that.

Remembering Ninoy

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THERE were two kinds of Filipinos before Aug. 21, 1983. Those who had heard of Ninoy Aquino, and those who hadn't. There was only one kind of Filipino after that day: those who had heard of Ninoy and, because of his death, had made a choice. A nation of millions of cowards and one son of a bitch, as an American senator put it, became a nation of brave people and one doomed son of a bitch.

Those who knew Ninoy before he died either viewed him as a political has-been, or a charismatic politician who remained the man to beat despite the best efforts of the dictatorship to demean and neutralize him. But more important were the millions of Filipinos who had come of age in the era of the New Society, brainwashed, craven, cautious and uninvolved. The one shot that shattered Ninoy's cranium shattered too the comfortable artifice that allowed the middle class and wealthy to believe they and their children could close their eyes to the truth of martial law.

Ninoy had planned to come home to reason with the man who had jailed him; he had come to offer a way that would bring peace and, ironically, allow Ferdinand Marcos an opportunity to retire as an elder statesman, secure in the myth and riches he had so assiduously built. The answer not only snuffed out the life of one man and his putative assassin; it dashed all hopes that Marcos could be reasoned with to look to the higher interests of his people.

Martial law, upon its declaration, did not polarize Philippine society in the manner that the Philippine Revolution, the Philippine-American War, or World War II had. Millions decided to sit on the fence; far too few made a stand for or against based on conscience. Ninoy was one of the few, remained one of the few, until his being taken away finally guaranteed that the few would become many. His death finally polarized society; it ensured that there must come a final showdown.

Quiet was collaboration; obedience was support; to rationalize was to condone. The comfortable illusions that allowed the supposedly best and brightest—though really, the richest and most cynical—in our society to deal with a tyrant, were stripped away. The arguments that Marcos might be harsh in his rule but fundamentally oriented toward building a functional society; that he might be a dictator but a smart one and a visionary could not withstand the simple truth: after being offered a solution to the problem of succession that plagues all dictators, he instead—like any stupid despot—replied with a gun. What did it matter if his apologists claimed he was either too sick or too smart to have actually ordered Ninoy's liquidation? As soon as he could rise from his sickbed, he set the machinery in place to whitewash any investigation to unmask the real culprits.

The true nature of martial law was always evident to those who bothered to look, or wanted to find out the truth. Ninoy's death ensured that no one, of whatever age, could fail to see that the dictatorship was brutal and venal, that avarice was its ruling passion and nothing else. It is only when faced with the base nature of a government that a people can be aroused to rise over their own base instincts.

There began that day, and the days that followed, a flexing of the atrophied consciences and political will of a people. It began with the family: fathers could not help but admire the courage of a man who would come home despite death threats; mothers could not help but mourn a man who risked all for the future of his people. Fathers and mothers could not help but be shamed by a man who had everything but would give it all up in a burst of idealism the dictator had conditioned them to believing must be fake. Sons and daughters saw their parents being brave, and resolved to match their courage.

Indeed, families began people power, motivated by the humane instincts that speak so well of us as a people: going to condole with the bereaved; standing in unaccustomed lines to view Ninoy's body; attending masses and novenas to pray for his soul; marching in a funeral cortege and, thereafter, massing in public places. Families shared books and illegal videos and pamphlets with each other at home; relatives sent these forbidden things from abroad; and family upon family finally felt what it was like to belong to a community that stood ready to proclaim it wanted not the peace of the internment camp but that of a free of people.

The Filipino people were never the same again after Aug. 21, 1983. The mature then are now old; the young then are now mature. But most of all, there are many who are now mature, who have never known total fear and total moral indifference and cowardice; who do not know what it is like to be slaves: they are all his children. Even if so many of them today do not know who he was.

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Award honors news

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

PEOPLE in the government service have been heard to complain about unfair treatment by the media. When they're accused of wrongdoings, the news gets front-page news treatment or prime-time radio and TV coverage. But when they're cleared of the charges, the story is buried in the inside page or simply ignored.

Occasionally, positive or laudatory reports are written about the men and women who run the government bureaucracy. There are instances, however, when those articles inadvertently fall short of their intended objective.

Last Aug. 16, the INQUIRER published in its front page ("Fastest judge among 6 Gender Justice awardees"), the report of its Northern Luzon Bureau correspondent about Judge Clifton Ganay of Agoo, La Union, who holds the national record of having only six pending cases by the end of 2001, in regard to his being named as one of six recipients of the first Gender Justice Awards.

The citation is given "for rendering gender-sensitive decisions on violence against women cases." The award is sponsored by the University of the Philippines' Center for Women's Studies, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, and other civic and women's organizations.

The awards to the four male and two female judges who won were given in fitting ceremonies last Wednesday with no less than Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. as the keynote speaker.

The manner by which this news report was presented did not sit well with retired Supreme Court Justice Flerida Ruth Romero, past president of the Philippine Women Judges Association.

Gender injustice

She wrote: "Reading today's issue made me shake my head in disbelief. At the upper right hand corner, you featured the "Fastest judge among 6 Gender Justice Awardees." Then on Page 21 followed a detailed account with statistics of the records of Judge Ganay in disposing of his cases speedily. Further to the end is a recital of his awards.

"With no intention of denigrating his achievements, I am surprised why you played up his record as such when the competition is not to recognize the 'fastest judge alive' but to cite the judge who has rendered 'gender-sensitive decisions on violence against women cases.'

"In a virtual footnote or afterthought, you inserted a one-liner stating that Judge Ma. Nimfa Penaco-Sitaca of the Misamis Occidental RTC topped the list.' I dare say that in so playing up the winner from Luzon you unwittingly rendered a 'gender injustice' to Judge Sitaca, the overall winner.

"You might offer the excuse that PDI merely published the report of its correspondent. But surely, your editorial board has the prerogative to exercise its judgment in publishing fully or partially the pieces submitted by its reporters.

"Just to present an unbiased picture, PDI could have assigned a staff member to research on the background of Judge Sitaca who is an achiever in her own right—accomplished, brilliant, conscientious and honest."

Initiative

When I looked into the circumstances behind the publication of the complained news report, I learned that the correspondent came to know about the award and the names of the awardees through a press release that the organizers gave to their partner news agencies and other media outlets.

According to the correspondent, there were no details in the press release about any of the awardees, but based on the release alone anyone could have written a straight news story.

It so happened that the correspondent had a trip scheduled for La Union the week before the news came out, so she took the initiative of seeking out one of the awardees, Judge Ganay, who holds court in that place. In the course of the interview, she learned some interesting facts about Judge Ganay that she put in her news report.

She explained that her story was not meant to be a story about the Gender Justice Award, but simply a take on the performance of a public official who is based in her assigned beat.

Coming on the heels of an earlier report of the INQUIRER about the dismissal by the Supreme Court of a judge in Caloocan City who sat on two cases for 13 long years, the story about the "fastest judge" was a welcome piece. Hence, it was published on the front page and not in the Across the Nation section where reports of that nature are usually placed.

Editorial judgment

As the reader correctly pointed out, the editorial staff of the newspaper has the last say on whether a report submitted by a reporter or correspondent should be published or not.

For all the efforts that may have gone in the preparation of a story (from the interview of the news source to the writing and re-writing of the article), the editorial staff may decide not to use it for any of the following reasons: the subject matter is not significant enough; the facts are sketchy; the story is still unfolding; or not all the sides of the story were covered.

It is common practice in "awards" stories that the person who garners the highest points (or the topnotcher) gets top billing; as the "first among equals"—he or she is often the center of attention. And rightly so because he or she gave the best performance or worked the hardest to earn that singular distinction.

I think the news about the Gender Justice Award would have created a more positive impact on the readers had information about the rest of the awardees— with emphasis, perhaps, on the top awardee—been written about too. Aside from making the readers know why they deserve the award, the story would be well received in the places where the judges hold court. Getting interesting background tidbits about the rest of the awardees is easy considering the newspaper's nationwide network of reporters and correspondents.

In any event, things have evened up. Yesterday, the INQUIRER published on its front page an extensive report on the other awardees and their accomplishments. This is on top of the three articles written by its columnist, Rina Jimenez-David, on the same subject matter.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Diapora of physicians a serious national concern

THE DIASPORA of medical doctors who have taken up nursing for jobs abroad should be addressed by our government. If this continues, we could reach the point whereby medical care in the Philippines would be greatly compromised.

Since steps have been taken by our government to increase the salaries and benefits of other public sectors, like judges, policemen and teachers, it would be appropriate to do the same for our medical professionals, especially those in government service, in order to reverse the tide of exodus that is sending more and more of our medical personnel to other parts of the world.

—JAIME B. BALUBAL
54 Tanza, Tuguegarao City

How to generate more revenues through the immigration bureau

THE PHILIPPINES needs to raise revenues. Here is an easy way which will hurt no one and help a very important sector, while raising P5-P20 billion for the national government.

Give the more than one million foreign visitors to the Philippines the option to pay something like $500 (P30,000) at the airport for a six-month visa, if the foreigner has had at least one previous visit to the Philippines and there is nothing on record that is derogatory about him.

Payments through credit cards should be allowed so that the payments go directly to the coffers of the immigration bureau. The computer system for this scheme will only cost $100,000 to set up, that is, if the bidding is not attended by corruption).

The current system, which requires foreigners to report to immigration offices every two months or to get an extension of their stay in the country, generates barely a total $200 in six months and, probably, collects hardly enough to cover overhead cost, such as, the salaries of the immigration employees, building maintenance, etc.

Also consider the shabby treatment that foreigners—many of whom are respected and wealthy citizens in their countries—get from the bureaucracy, which surely discourages most of the visitors from coming back or from investing here.

For a foreigner, an extra $300 every six months ($50 per month) is nothing compared to the trouble of having to stand in long lines, waiting inside a small room in an immigration office, for one whole day every other two months.

Foreign visitors are the lifeblood of the Philippines. It never ceases to amaze me how hard the Philippines tries to make transacting with its bureaucracy so difficult for its visitors.

Economics is about efficiency and volume. The vast majority of foreigners are wealthy and they would not think twice about going to some other country for vacation or even retirement if they have to deal with red tape, long lines, and such irritating stuff here. The "Retire in Philippines" campaign is a joke. Who would want to expose themselves to Philippine bureaucracy?

On a side note, since the immigration bureau refuses me entry to its office when I wear, in a tropical climate, the same short pants that I wear to a business meeting in my software companies in USA, I suggest the immigration department and every government office rationalize this sort of thing in terms of benefit to the Philippines? If we are just trying to uphold professionalism, then well might as well require suit and tie for both immigration employees and visitors (it is not that hot in the Philippines and let's not lower our standard to long pants only!), even though such attire is about 20 years behind the curve; the most wealthy people in the West now go to work in casual attire. Companies and government offices no longer view attire as an indication of professionalism (because there is absolutely no correlation).

—SHELBY MOORE
coolpage@earthlink.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

A call to ECC and SSS

I SUFFERED an employment-related lumbar-spine injury on April 10, 1995 and, since then, have been granted 240 days temporary total disability and then 38 months permanent partial disability under the Employees' Compensation Commission and Social Security System laws. When I applied for additional benefits on account of such injury, SSS-Tarlac sidestepped the issue by granting instead benefits for heart disease and diabetes mellitus. Under the SSS manual rating of physical impairments and disabilities, SSS cannot provide additional disability benefits for the injury. EEC's May 6, 2004 letter, requesting SSS to elevate the records held by the system to the ECC, is most heartening. However, SSS is taking its own sweet time by requiring this member to submit to physical exam and X-ray. On the other hand, it has been the practice of the ECC to remand claims appealed to that agency back to SSS for final determination *kuno* of their compensability.

I have elevated my case to the ECC, submitting to that body three memoranda, together with all the required documents, for the ECC to examine and review. It should be no longer necessary for the ECC to wait for the SSS records of my case, after all, they consist of the same documents that I sent with my memoranda to the ECC. I appeal to the ECC to resolve my appeal based on the records at hand. Because of my injury, no more employer will hire me.

—ROLANDO S. BATO,
San Lucas Street, Balete,
Hacienda Luisita,
San Miguel Tarlac

'Nakakabobo' tube

AS a second-year communications student, may I share some of the issues about local television, which we discussed in our media education class.

In trying to "outrate" each other, local television networks have done away with the essence of media and have sacrificed the quality of their shows. They copy foreign programs, and do more copying of a rival network's format that is successful. Creativity and originality have become obsolete in local TV: stations show the same type of programs in the same time slot; thus rendering TV schedules irritatingly homogenous but disorganized as networks keep changing, copying or re-scheduling programs to match whatever is being aired by the rival network at any given hour.

A case in point are the "teleseryes" shown one after another during primetime. While it is true that they entertain and draw large audiences, this "bombardment of teleseryes" practically is proving to be counter-productive, hooking viewers to three or more straight hours of drama every night; lots of hours that could be put to better use by doing household chores or relating with the family after a long day's work.

Ideally, viewers should be exposed to shows that inform, educate or encourage critical thinking. Ironically, the kind of shows that hew to this ideal are inaccessible to the ordinary viewer as they are aired late at night or on cable television.

Fluffy shows, like show biz talk shows and variety shows, take up too much airtime, clocking in a ridiculous three hours per week at the least. Show biz features used to be limited to an estimated thirty minutes per night. Now, they are staple even in news programs. Meanwhile, the weekend "*chismis*" shows seem to get longer and longer.

Most of these programs have nothing much to offer but monotonous programming in which someone lipsynchs a song every twenty minutes. These shows also give the wrong idea to kids and those who are insufficiently educated by presenting them with shallow role models who don't have the proper values. In Filipino, *nakakabobo na talaga ang telebisyon*.

And this is only the tip of the iceberg. Underneath the poor programming is an endless barrage of other issues concerning today's television. I hope our local television networks would listen and learn to prioritize enjoyable yet intelligent and quality programs over everything else.

—MELISSA G. BAGAMASBAD
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Why go to the US?

I HAVE to agree with Dr. Paulin's comments (PDI, 7,27/04) on Randy David's July 11 column. It is hypocritical for Filipinos to be engaged in what I call "America-bashing" when, in fact, literally the entire race wants to come to America to live! When a Filipino gets denied a visa, we hear complaints and cries of indignation. Well, why come to the United States where supposedly it is ruled by an evil government?

It is disgusting to say the least when I see Filipinos in front of the US Embassy burning the American flag and uttering profanities toward Americans and the American government. Let me remind these protesters and their supporters that the America they claim to hate is the same America that provides aid to a lot of nations around the world, including the Philippines. It is the same America that provides jobs to a lot of Filipinos.

These days, a lot of call centers are based in the Philippines. Why don't you tell those who are employed at the call centers not to take those jobs and to tell America to take those jobs somewhere. Lastly, next time you travel to another country, don't fly on a DC-10 or a Boeing 747 because it is made in America.

With respect to Iraq, would the world be safer with Saddam Hussein in power? Do Filipinos want Saddam back as the dictator of Iraq? I'm not saying Americans are all virtuous people. All I'm saying is that let's be balanced in our view of other peoples.

—BILL SABALBURO
cacio123@yahoo.com

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Consider asylum for Bobby Fischer in RP

I WOULD like to appeal to the Christian heart of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to grant American chess grandmaster Bobby Fischer, who currently being detained in Japan, asylum in the Philippines. I am moved by his plight; he has been disowned by his country just because he played chess in a war-torn country like Yugoslavia. I am disgusted by our government's silence on the matter. It would be ironic if his pleas for sanctuary here will fall on deaf ears—ears that may have been voluntarily closed in fear of Uncle Sam's wrath.

It's doubly ironic for the administration to play blind, deaf and dumb in this case. I understand it is our policy to accept refugees persecuted for their beliefs. We pride ourselves as one of the few countries where Jews could find safe haven from Nazi persecution during World War II. We repeatedly granted North Korean asylum-seekers third-country transit before boarding them to Seoul. We stopped the forced repatriation of Vietnamese refugees in Palawan and gave them Vietville. We even recently passed the dual citizenship law.

So, why don't we adopt Bobby Fischer as one of our own? We should be happy that one of the best minds in the chess world is seeking sanctuary in the Philippines. He has a wife and child here, for goodness sake! Fischer can re-energize the chess scene here by being a mentor, or open a chess school, or he can even represent our nation in chess olympiads.

—JULIUS DE LA CRUZ
1505 M.H. del Pilar St.,
Ermita, Manila
julsitos@yahoo.com

Merry-go-round at SSS

THIS is to deplore the gross inefficiency and ignorance with which the Social Security System, Tagaytay City Branch, has handled my application for a salary loan.

I first applied for such loan with that branch on April 22, 2004. My application was received by Mr. Norman Perez. However, because of some technicalities, it was denied. I was instructed to submit a certificate of employment because, he said, my employer now is different from the one on record, as shown by the "printout." I obliged. My re-filed application was received June 11, 2004. I was then advised to make a follow-up after one week.

After a week, I made a follow-up only to be told that I needed to submit R1-A, which I could get from my employer. A week after I submitted the R1-A, I went back to SSS-Tagaytay and was told to submit a specimen signature. A week later, I made another follow-up and I was told that the specimen signature I submitted was lost, so I needed to submit a new one. After I had complied, I asked if I could make follow-ups by phone because I had already spent so much in going to the SSS-Tagaytay. I was given a contact number and, after a week, I made another follow-up. I was made to wait for 40 minutes only to be told that I should call at 4 p.m. because the SSS people there could not entertain me before that time as there were still a lot of work to attend to. I was told to personally go to SSS-Tagaytay because it would be unfair for others personally following up their salary loan applications. So I went back to making personal follow-ups at SSS-Tagaytay each and every week of the calendar. Each time I go there, the SSS people there would give me a different alibi—ranging from broken computers to network off-line—to justify their inability to act on my application. With my patience wearing thin, I decided to make an investigation. When I asked for my application file, they could not produce it; it appears they had lost it.

I have spent so much for my loan application in terms of time, money and effort. Until now, no one at SSS-Tagaytay can give me a clear picture as to its status. I'm an ordinary worker who religiously pay my dues to SSS. Why am I not being given a fair treatment in return?

If the people of SSS-Tagaytay cannot solve a problem such as this, maybe the Office of the SSS President can. But then do we need to wait for things like this to be published in newspapers before they are properly acted on?

—MICHAEL LIGORIO S. NAVAL IV
114-B Alima, Bacoor, Cavite

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Subic groups urge new waste probe

OLONGAPO CITY—Various groups staged a symbolic protest here on Saturday to call for a new investigation into the reported discharge of human waste by a US vessel into Subic Bay last month.

A statement condemning the discharge was placed in small boats fashioned out of old rubber slippers that children set sail on the Kalaklan River toward Subic Bay.

Members of the Metro Subic Network on Bases Clean-up, Yokubari Foundation Inc., Mag-ilaw Ka Kalaklan, Area Based Standard Network, Olongapo-Zambales Subic Bay Coalition and Olongapo Civil Society Movement said officials of the USS Russell should be held responsible for the discharge of human waste found floating in six square meters of the bay on July 27.

The groups gathered at the bank of the river to air their grievances against the "utter disregard" by American soldiers of local environmental laws and to call the attention of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority to the incident.

"If it is proven that there was indeed an incident of human waste discharge, be it accidental or intentional, the top officials of the USS Russell and its shipping agent, Global Ship Management Inc., should be penalized," the groups said in the statement.

They demanded an "official public apology" from the ship's captain for the violations and environmental harm that the dumping had caused.

"Our renewed call for the reinvestigation of the incident is part of our long-time demand for the United States government to probe and clean up toxic and other hazardous wastes left in former US military bases in the country," the statement said.

Earlier, Amethya de la Llana, head of the SBMA's ecology department, said the SBMA did not withdraw the notice of violation issued to the Russell.

Her statement came despite pronouncements from the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACom) that the findings of the SBMA on the human waste dumping by the Russell were "inconclusive."

De la Llana issued a notice of violation and slapped a $10,000-fine on the ship after receiving an incident report from the SBMA seaport department that the vessel had discharged human waste into Subic waters. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ANSBERT JOAQUIN/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

CHILDREN from Olongapo City, assisted by officials of three big nongovernment organizations, set off miniature motorized rubber *bancas* to sail to Subic Bay to protest the reported dumping of human waste by the USS Russell.

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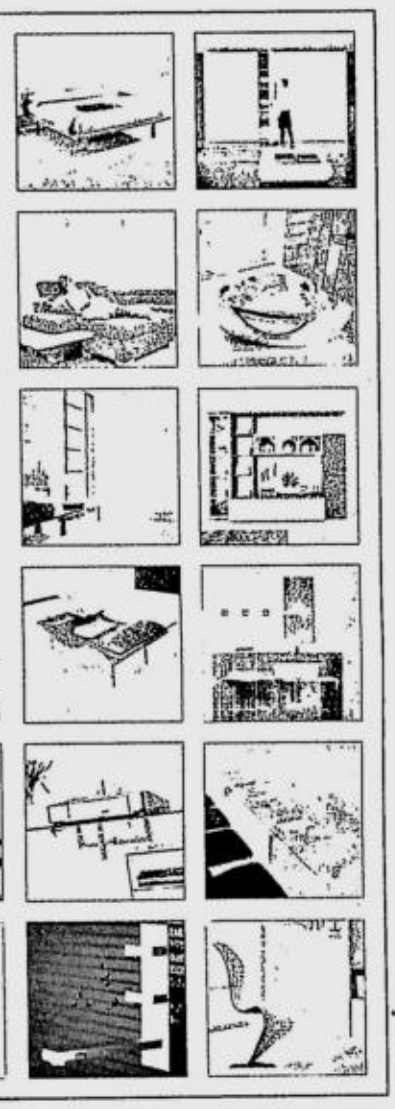

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			Updates in Constitutional & Election Laws – 3:15 pm - 6:15 pm (3CU)	Justice Regalado E. Maambong
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			Pre-Trial Skills – 10:15 am – 12:15 pm (2CU)	Justice Noel G. Tijam
	PM Session		Trial Technique – 1-3 pm (2CU)	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
			International & Domestic Arbitration – 3:15 pm – 6:15 pm (3CU)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
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	PM Session		Updates in Legal Ethics – 1-4 pm (3CU)	Justice Hector L. Hofileña
			Updates in Labor Law – 4:15 pm – 6:15 pm (2CU)	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan
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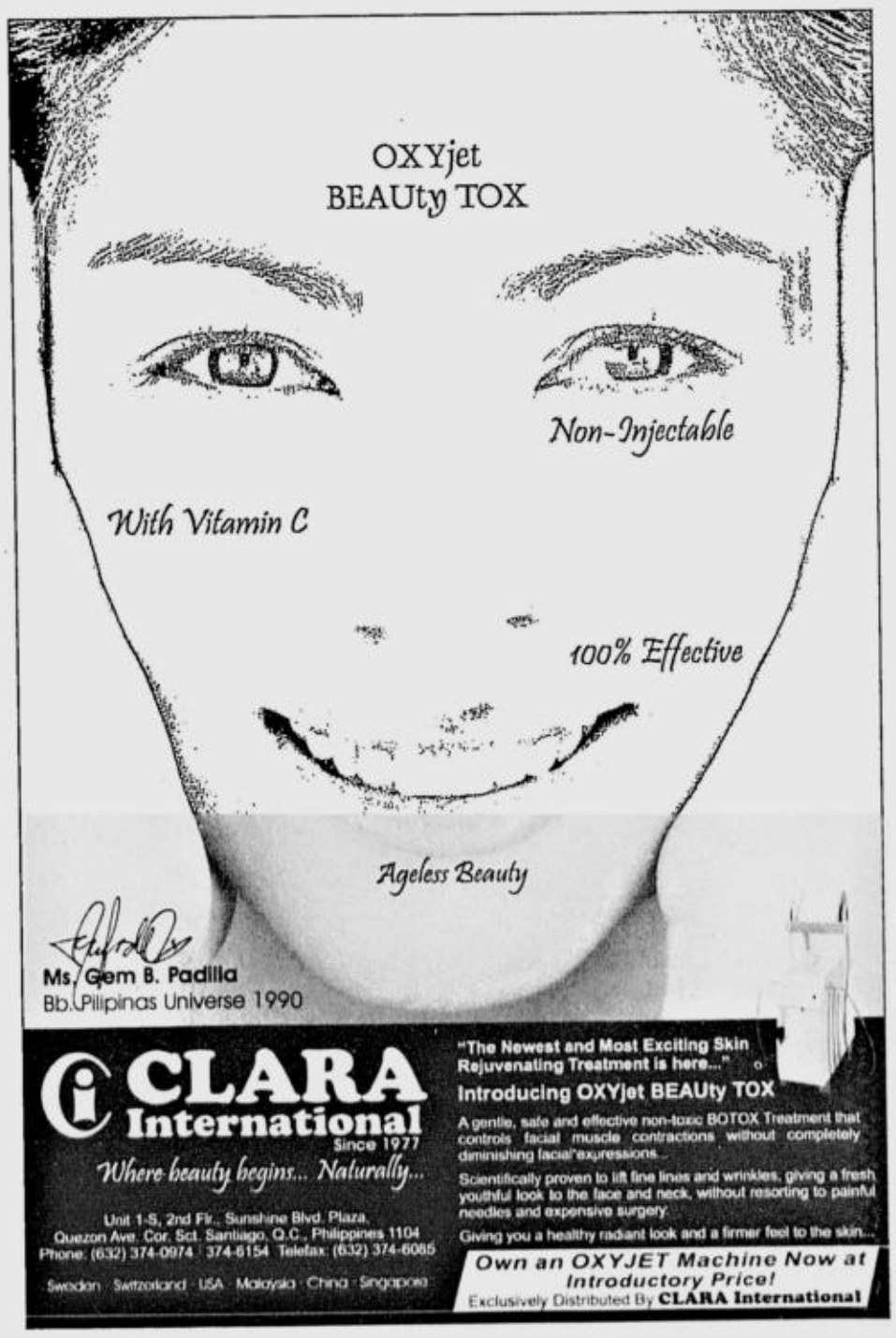

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POLICE officials promise to look into the killings of journalists during a dialogue with media practitioners, who held a protest rally at Camp Crame last week.

Cops say killing of Batangas journalist 'practically solved'

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE HEAD of a task force created by the Philippine National Police to investigate the recent killings of journalists on Thursday announced that the murder of Batangas broadcaster Arnel Manalo was "practically solved."

Senior Supt. Nicasio Radovan, head of Task Force Newsmen, told the INQUIRER that Manalo's younger brother Apollo, who witnessed the killing, positively identified the lone gunman as Michael Garcia, a suspected member of a gun-for-hire group.

Radovan said Apollo singled out Garcia from records of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) office at Camp Miguel Malvar in Batangas City on Wednesday.

"With this development, the killing of Manalo is practically solved because the eyewitness in the murder positively identified the suspect. We are just hunting down Garcia (so we could present him in court)," Radovan said in a phone interview.

Although he said the police had all the motives clearly drawn out, Radovan declined to give other details about Garcia. He said the suspect had a standing warrant of arrest for murder issued by a court in Cabanatuan City.

"We just want to assure Manalo's family and colleagues that justice would be served to them and the victim," he added.

Members of the Batangas Newswriters Association (BNA) welcomed the development, but many of them were puzzled.

Requesting anonymity, they said Garcia was a bodyguard and nephew of Ed Mendoza, a barangay chair in Bauan town, who had gone into hiding after being implicated in the killing of the top aide of an influential businessman and the rape of a minor.

Manalo and two other members of the BNA had supposedly met Mendoza to get his side on issues raised against him.

The interview was published in the Dyaryo Veritas, a community paper based in Batangas City, where Manalo was a contributor.

A source said Manalo might have incurred the ire of Mendoza who suspected the victim of informing the police of his whereabouts.

Another said Mendoza ordered the killing of Manalo because "*marami na siyang alam tungkol kay Mendoza* (he knew too much about Mendoza)."

"Mendoza may have thought that he could escape the blame for the killing of Manalo because everybody would suspect that only his political rivals had the motive to order the murder," the source, who is close to the victim, said.

Ozaeta said they were pleased with the development and urged the police to arrest Garcia at once.

He revealed that other BNA members had also been receiving death threats after they signified their intent to solve Manalo's case.

In Manila, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) expressed concern about the death threat received via text by INQUIRER correspondent Aquiles Zonio in General Santos City.

"The threat on Zonio's life is particularly disturbing in the wake of the murder of his colleague, RGMA Superadyo reporter Jonathan Abayon, the second journalist murdered in General Santos City within the year. The suspect, William Bael, is still at large," said Carlos Conde, NUJP secretary general, in a statement.

"Zonio had also received death threats in the past because of his reporting on local issues, among them corruption in government," Conde said.

To deal with the threats, NUJP yesterday launched a hotline—09167512522—where journalists can report threats or incidents of violence against journalists, via text or voice call. Reports can also be emailed to threat@nujp.org.

Journalists can also log on to the NUJP website (www.nujp.org) and fill out a form to report the threat or incident.

The NUJP called on journalists under threat to adopt the following measures for their protection:

- Do not ignore the threat. Record it, when it happened, what exactly was said and how was it relayed. If the threat was made through a voice call, take note of the time, the date, the phone number, any sound in the background and any of the caller's voice characteristics. If through text, do not delete the threat message.
- Report the threat immediately to the police or local authorities.
- Report the threat immediately to your editors or supervisors, as well as to the NUJP or other media groups.

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Ilonggo taxi driver gets hero's welcome

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—In the end, the only treasure worth keeping for Nestor Sulpico is right at home.

"Forget the black pearls. My only treasure is my mother," the New York taxi driver, who became famous when he returned $70,000 worth of black pearls to their owner, said after he arrived to a hero's welcome in his hometown on Saturday.

The teary-eyed Elena Sulpico, who turned 84 on Aug. 18, met her son at the airport. She said his homecoming was the best birthday gift for her.

Sulpico was also met by Gov. Niel Tupas Sr., Tourism regional director Edwin Trompeta, Leganes Mayor Adolf Jaen, and close friends and relatives.

People welcomed their provincemate, who waved at them from a pickup at the head of a 20-vehicle caravan.

They clapped, cheered and made the thumbs-up sign as the caravan, accompanied by a truckload of Ati-Atihan drummers, passed through the main streets.

Several taxi drivers stopped their vehicles, sounded their horns, rolled down their windows or opened their doors and waved at Sulpico. A flower vendor at the Iloilo Central market gave him a bouquet of roses.

Sulpico, who drives a taxi up to 16 hours daily to earn a living in New York, will be staying at the presidential penthouse suite of the Eon Centennial Hotel, which is owned by his high school classmate Felix Tiu.

"I am home and I feel at home," Sulpico said.

Sulpico will pay courtesy calls to Tupas and Iloilo Mayor Jerry Treñas today. Residents of Leganes will honor him with a program in front of the municipal hall.

He will stay overnight on Boracay Island the next day and is expected to leave for Manila on Aug. 26.

Sulpico arrived in Manila on Sunday for a two-week visit. His trip from the US and to Iloilo is being shouldered by the tourism department.

Since his arrival, Sulpico has been busy attending press conferences and social functions, and meeting friends.

He received a copy of a Senate resolution on Wednesday commending his honesty for returning the black pearls that a passenger had left in a backpack in his cab in New York City on July 14.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday also gave him a citation and a P100,000 cash reward. On the same day, the Bureau of Immigration approved Sulpico's petition for dual citizenship.

Suplico left for the United States in 1990 and later became an American citizen. He has been coming back to the Philippines to visit his family, the last of which was in April last year.

Anonymous fans have also deposited money in his bank account in New York, said Sulpico.

Yesterday, a family friend who was on the same plane he took from Manila offered to give him a 1,000-square-meter lot in Guimaras that he can use to build a vacation house.

And the offers keep coming. Sulpico said he has received several offers from producers who are interested in filming his life story. Television networks are also planning to do their own productions.

"I'm enjoying the attention because this is just fleeting," he told the INQUIRER.

The celebrity attention he got in New York has primed him for the attention he is now getting from his compatriots. He was called "New York's most honest taxi driver" for returning the jewels. The owner, businessman Lawrence Policastro, raised at least $5,000 for an education fund to help Sulpico finish his nursing studies at the Bronx Community College.

On Aug. 4, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg gave him an "integrity award" during the recognition ceremony of the Taxi and Limousine Commission.

But he said the hero's welcome he had been getting since he arrived in the country was "much sweeter" than in New York. "*Mas feel ko ini* (This is more meaningful)."

Sulpico is scheduled to leave for the United States on Sept. 1 to catch up with the opening of classes the next day. While studying, he plans to continue driving a taxi, but only on a part-time basis.

He has transferred from his rented room in the Bronx borough, where he was mugged twice, to Queens. He now rents a room for $500 per month in a four-bedroom house that he shares with Koreans.

Despite the attention, Sulpico said he was just an "ordinary guy."

"I was just at the right place at the right time and the right circumstance and God just made me an instrument to convey the message that we need honesty especially in our situation," he said.

Sulpico said Filipino lawyers in New York were planning to put up a foundation that will promote honesty and to help taxi drivers all over the world.

Asked what helped developed his sense of honesty, Sulpico said he was struck by a poster near the classroom blackboard when he was in Grade 1: "Honesty is the best policy."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 23, 2004
21st Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12
Gospel: Mt 23:13-22

Jesus said, "Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door to the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor do you allow others to do so.

"Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel by sea and land to win a single convert, yet once he is converted, you turn him twice as fit for hell as yourselves.

"Woe to you, blind guides! You say: To swear by the Temple is not binding, but to swear by the treasure of the Temple is. Blind fools! Which is of more worth? The gold in the Temple or the Temple which makes the gold a sacred treasure? You say: To swear by the altar is not binding, but to swear by the offering on the altar is. How blind you are! Which is of more value: the offering on the altar or the altar which makes the offering sacred? Whoever swears by the altar is swearing by the altar and by everything on it. Whoever swears by the Temple is swearing by it and by God who dwells in the Temple. Whoever swears by heaven is swearing by the throne of God and by him who is seated on it."

Commentary

THIS passage (and the remainder of chapter 23) has been used by Christians in the past to fuel anti-Jewish polemic. But clearly it is not Judaism itself that Matthew's gospel had in focus, but those Pharisees who opposed and ultimately destroyed Jesus. Matthew himself was a Jew, as of course were Jesus, his disciples, and his family.

The problem with the Pharisees was the absence of an interior spirit to give life to their religious practices. They are a warning headline for all time, because any group in any religion is capable of going their way. They would strain out a gnat (qamla) from their drink, Jesus said, but swallow a camel (gamla). They would give tithes not only of their field grain and fruit crops, but even of the herbs in the back garden; and yet they neglected the really important things: justice, mercy and love. They quibbled with words in order to have things both ways.

The Pharisees get harsh treatment especially in Matthew's gospel. The word "Pharisee" has come to mean hypocrite. What was their real motivation? While the Sadducees refused to accept any precept as binding unless it was based directly on the Torah, that is, the Written Law, the Pharisees believed that the Law given to Moses was twofold, consisting of the Written Law and the Oral Law. The Oral Law was the teachings of the prophets and the oral traditions of the Jewish people. The Sadducees held that the written Torah was the only source of revelation, but the Pharisees admitted the principle of evolution in the Law. Hence all their endless complexity of rules.

Does that remind you of the difference between Protestant and Catholic? If so, then the gospels are even a better mirror to us all.

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ROUNDUP

NBI escorts in gunfight

COTABATO CITY—Two security escorts of Silvino Cinches, director for Central Mindanao of the National Bureau of Investigation were involved in a gunfight after a heated argument Wednesday evening. One of them, identified as militiaman Mario Morales died. Supt. Hajijul Taraji, city police director, said based on their initial findings, Morales had an altercation with Sgt. Mario Alejado of the Army's 6th Infantry Division. Both Alejado and Morales were assigned to secure the Cinches residence following a grenade attack in June that damaged the NBI official's service Nissan pickup. It was not clear what the dispute was between the two escorts but Taraji said it was Alejado who fired the first shot. Morales was being rushed to the hospital when he died. Alejado was later arrested. Cinches was out of town when the incident took place. ***Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Red tide hits fishers

MATI, Davao Oriental—At least 1,000 fisherfolk here have been affected by the ban on the gathering of shellfish from the Balite Bay because of red tide contamination, officials said. But the local government said it was determined to prevent anybody from gathering shellfish to avoid a disaster. Alfeo Piloton, provincial chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, said tests conducted on shellfish from the bay revealed that the level of red tide toxin already reached 165 micrograms (mcg) per 100 grams (gms) of meat. Piloton said the tolerable level is only 40 mcg per 100 gms. Piloton said the red tide contamination was primarily caused by human-induced pollution in the bay. ***Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Worker electrocuted

MATI, Davao Oriental—A construction worker was electrocuted while 26 others sustained varying degrees of injury during construction on the warehouse of the the National Food Authority here on Aug. 16. Authorities described the incident as the result of lack of safety concerns. Gregorio Reyes, NFA's project inspector, said the 27 construction workers were erecting a 1,000-kilo steel truss of the building when the incident occurred. "We didn't know that the truss that we were erecting was connected to a 220-volt live wire," Jose Tac-al, construction foreman, said. He identified the dead construction worker as Rony Atog. Reyes said the incident could have been prevented if the workers wore safety gadgets. "They did not have gloves," he said. ***Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Kids find jail safer than streets of Davao

DAVAO CITY—The brother of two victims of suspected vigilante gunmen in July did not want to leave prison anymore.

He has urged his mother to ask authorities to file more complaints against him so that he could stay in prison for another 10 years.

Perlita Maraya, mother of 22-year-old Mark, told reporters here that his son was restless and worried about his life.

At least 63 suspected felons have died due to summary executions since January here.

"Ask Judge to file [a] complaint against me," Perlita quoted her son as saying.

Mark's brothers, Ryan and Michael Maraya, were killed on July 4, only 16 days before Ryan's 20th birthday.

Michael would have turned 16 in November, said Perlita.

Four of her six children, including Mark, were still alive. Mark was arrested for theft but his case was due for dismissal because there is no complainant.

"I'll just come out of here when they are no longer there," Perlita quoted Mark's words to her.

Several of those summarily killed this year were people who just served their terms in jail.

Fearing the vigilantes will kill him once he set foot outside prison, Mark said he would rather remain behind bars.

"He's asking me to find somebody to file a case against him," Perlita, who earns a living by washing clothes, said.

"For him, it's safer to stay in prison than to roam the streets of Davao. We've been famous for these killings."

As vigilantes claimed their 63nd victim this year, mothers of the victims (some of them, children), are trying to protect their remaining children and other possible victims.

"If you have money, you'll allow your son to get out of this place," said Claudia Minuza, whose son Noel, 19, was killed in front of her in 1999.

Barely five months after Noel died, suspected vigilantes came to take away another of her son, Adam, 24, from her.

"You try to protect the rest of your children who are still alive by letting them out of the city as fast as you can," Minuza said, "It's safer somewhere else, except here."

Earlier, Nayor Rodrigo Duterte warned illegal pushers to start swimming for Sarangani or they would be wiped out.

Duterte issued the warning during one episode of his Sunday TV program "Gikan sa Masa, Para sa Masa."

"Most of those being killed were poor," said Bernie Mondragon, executive director of the nongovernment organization Tambayan, "We still have to hear some rich people being killed."

He said the number of victims has reached 300 since the group started counting in 1996. ***Germelina A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Gozun gives mayors 2 months to clean up

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—All 1,495 town mayors and 115 city mayors in the country will have to start implementing the solid waste management systems in their areas within two months or risk being charged in court, outgoing Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun said.

Gozun, in a visit here last week, said she advised the local officials of the October deadline through a letter that also reminded them of the three-year lapse in the implementation of Republic Act 9003.

Also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the law was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Jan. 26, 2001. It was among the first laws that she signed when she assumed office after the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada.

"The solution is to manage the garbage at the source. All that mayors have to do is initiate a program on waste segregation, composting and recycling," Gozun said.

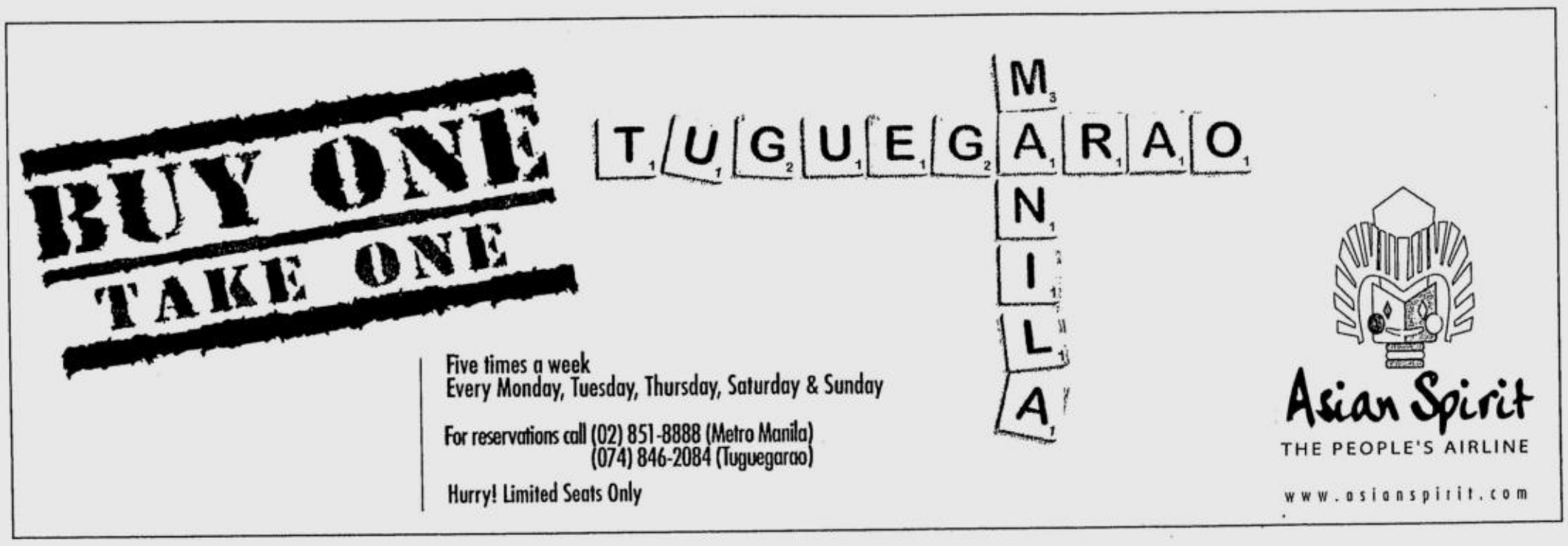
The law made it mandatory for local governments to ensure that biodegradable, nonbiodegradable and hazardous wastes are sorted.

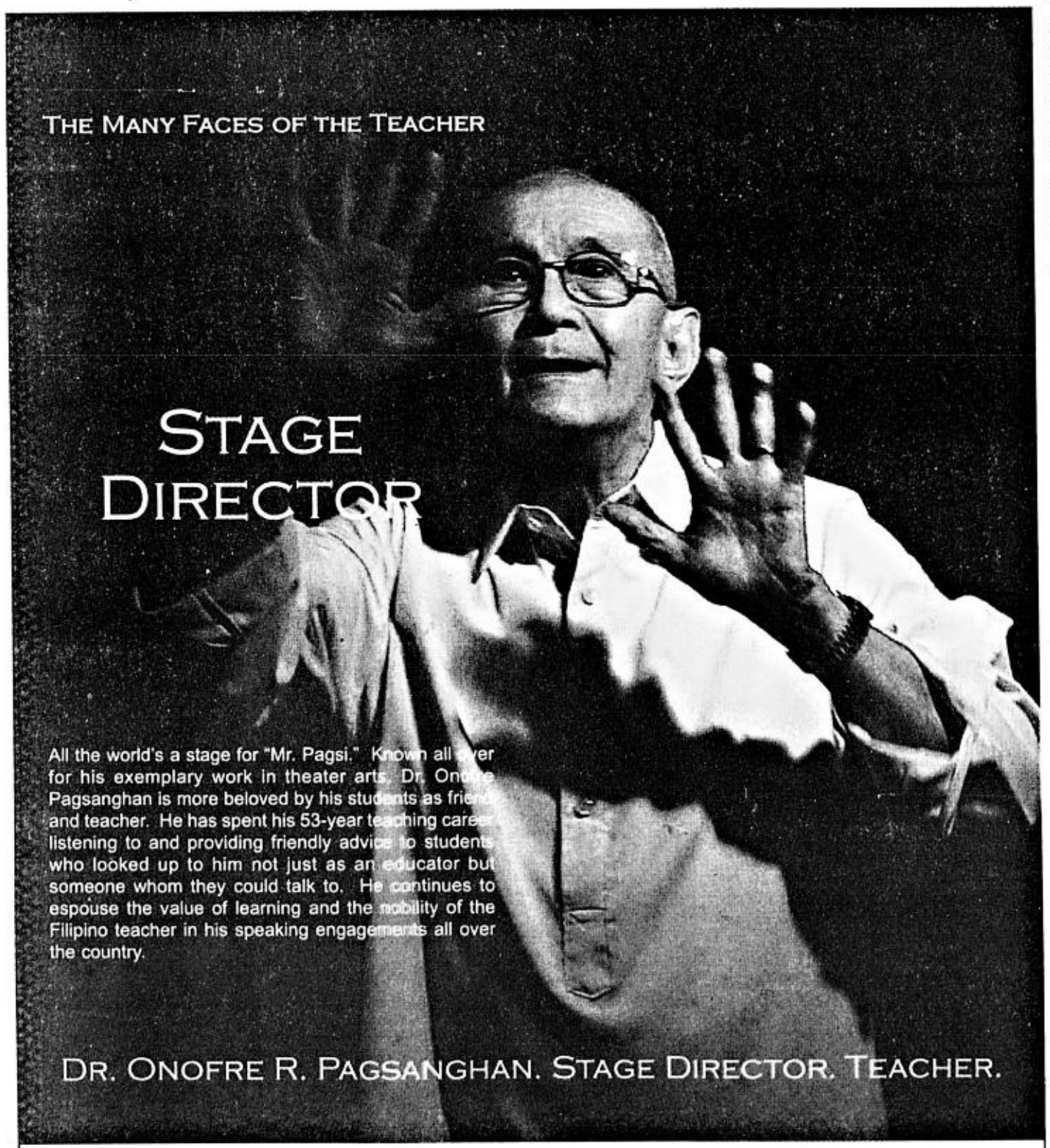
Under the law, local governments shall be "primarily responsible" for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of RA 9003.

Local executives and officials of government agencies who fail to comply with the law face administrative charges, Gozun said.

Most local governments maintain open dumps, which the law had banned, despite many technologies in reusing, recycling and reducing wastes.

She said the DENR, with the help of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, would file the charges with environmental ombudsman Wilfredo Candelaria. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***





UP economists warn of RP crash in 2 years

From page A1

choco-Bautista, Felipe M. Medalla, Solita C. Monsod, Ernesto M. Pernia, Renato E. Reside Jr., Gerardo P. Sicat and Edita A. Tan.

"(B)ecause the issue is crucial but esoteric, well-known but unpopular, it is almost inevitable for some politicians, media and public intellectuals to make political capital of the situation by pandering to public ignorance instead of relieving it," they said.

They noted that the national government's total debt stood at P3.36 trillion as of the end of 2003, or equivalent to 78 percent of the gross domestic product. The public sector debt, which includes the obligations of government-owned and controlled corporations, rises to more than 130 percent of GDP, the total value of goods produced and services rendered in the country.

The government expects a budget deficit of about P200 billion this year.

They said falling revenue and tax efforts were the main reason for the worsening deficit picture since 1997. The tax effort fell from a high of 17 percent of GDP in 1997 to only 12.5 percent by 2003.

"That this occurred even during years of continuous, though moderate, economic growth strongly suggests that serious structural flaws have crept into the revenue system. Bureaucratic corruption and tax evasion could not have been the sole or major culprit in the declining revenue effort," the economists said.

They said the growing debt and deficit were undoubtedly the biggest reason that investments and growth in the country had remained sluggish seven years after the start of the Asian crisis.

Because the government is increasingly dependent on debt, any sudden increase in global interest rates, which according to them can no longer be ruled out, would cause huge difficulties in repayment, whether or not the government defaulted formally.

The economists said a sharp rise in global interest rates would result in a sharp reduction in loans from foreign lenders and "precipitate a crisis such as that Argentina or Turkey experience."

"As the 1983-84 crisis showed, the cutback in foreign lending would lead to a sharp peso depreciation, mostly aggravated by capital flight, severely contract trade as the price of imports rose, and correspondingly cause a deep recession and unemployment," they said.

The UP economists said a crisis would not be averted even if government sought relief by reneging on paying the debts held by Filipinos. "Even that would also cause major difficulties and bankruptcies for the domestic banking system, which holds a large amount of government paper, and ruin millions of depositors," they said.

"Such systematic shock would entail no less severe economic contractions, causing thousands of bankruptcies and throwing millions into the streets."

The economists said these scenarios were being fended off only by the fact that the country continued to earn more foreign exchange than it was spending as a result of remittances by overseas Filipino workers.

But this could just as easily change, according to them. "Any large external shock, such as sustained increase in world oil prices, or a sharp fall-off in workers' remittances, or ironically, even rapid growth that would cause the import bill to rise, would make the country increasingly vulnerable."

They said that while the economy was not yet on the brink at this time, "it can probably afford at most three years to avert such crisis—with possibly a year at most to convince financial markets it is doing something to reverse the situation."

Alternatives

"In the spirit of beginning a constructive public discussion of alternatives," the economists are proposing the following:

- Limit the burden of servicing off-budget liabilities to 1.5 percent of GDP through price-and fee-adjustments, cost-cutting and management pay cuts in government corporations.
- Raise the national government's primary surplus to control the size of the debt and to safeguard the basis for future growth.
- Raise revenues by closing off tax loopholes, updating existing taxes, passing new revenue measures and reallocating spending.

They suggested that the criteria for evaluating proposed revenue or cost-cutting measures be as follows:

- Implement the full intent of existing laws ahead of new taxes.
- Distribute the burden of cost-adjustment and spending cuts throughout government.
- Consider only new taxes based on strict economic justification and ease of collection, in that order.

On this basis, the UP economists endorsed the following revenue measures:

- Indexation of specific taxes on tobacco and alcohol, which is expected to raise P14 billion.
- Closing off tax leaks plus additional effort by the Bureau of Internal Revenue—P12.4 billion.
- P2 per liter specific tax on petroleum products—P12 billion.
- Motor vehicle fee increase of 50 percent—P2 billion.
- Eight-percent increase in excise tax on new vehicle registration—P3.2 billion.
- Increase value-added tax rate from 10 to 12 percent and expand coverage—P25 billion.
- Reduce Internal Revenue Allotment to 30 percent—P35.2 billion.
- Halve pork barrel allocations—P10.7 bilion.
- Other measures to be identified—P10.3 billion.

"Timing these measures presents a distinct challenge to economic statesmanship on all sides. Two factors must be considered: first, the pace of the measures must demonstrate sufficient credibility and resolve before both foreign and domestic creditors to forestall any further slide in credit ratings or increase in interest rates.

"A second concern, on the other hand, is calibrating the phase-in of the measures in order to maintain macroeconomic stability and not to interrupt growth. Implemented in a haphazard and uncoordinated manner, the spate of tax increases and new measures could provoke an economic downturn," the economists said.

If the country avoids collapse in the next two years, it will be a first, they said.

"For this to happen, however, will require unprecedented cooperation and open-mindedness among the country's political elite as well as a great deal of forbearance and capacity for sacrifice among the people," they said.

"In such circumstances, staving off a crisis becomes a classic 'free-rider' problem: no one wants to be the bearer of bad news or the first to volunteer to sacrifice—the hope, of course, is that someone else will at sometime. Precisely to minimize the free-rider problem, we have sought to show that only a package of measures assigning a fair burden to all stands a fair chance of success.

"All that remains now is the test to determine whether the nation's institutions and the quality of its leadership will suffice to save its people from an impending ordeal that has been largely predicted and is perhaps entirely unnecessary," they said.

(Full text of the paper can be downloaded from www.upd.edu.ph/~econ.)

Foreign policy for survival

From page A1

of weakness, we need the political will and long-term vision to stay focused at every stage—always with pride, dignity, self-reliance and accuracy. We must learn to face the global music orchestrated by powerful nations but, like trained dancers, gauge our capabilities to look out for threats and opportunities before responding to that music.

I believe the United States would find the Philippines a more predictable and comfortable partner if we showed more self-reliance and self-confidence.

Remember the US bases?

We have become so preoccupied with daily concerns for food, clothing, shelter and jobs that our relations with other countries do not interest us until a major crisis erupts full-face.

Recall the passion and emotion during the Senate debate on the Military Bases Agreement (MBA) that began in 1988. At the time, Filipinos had a heightened sense of identity apart from America, and of the realization that we could stand alone.

I was not among the "Magnificent 12" who voted for the outright termination of the MBA but there was no doubt in my mind that the bases had to go sooner or later (the majority of the senators felt the same); thus my vote of a "critical yes." That agonizing dilemma demonstrated the very limited choices for Filipino leaders in the area of foreign policy, preempted as we usually are by stronger powers.

In retrospect, the decision to terminate the MBA when we did was the correct one, and that moment of exhilaration and pride when the country became free of foreign bases should not have been forgotten.

But we went back to business as usual; foreign policy took a back seat.

With the Filipino mentality of winner-take-all, the unchanging love-hate attitude toward America, the postponement of major decisions until the "last two minutes," we failed to build systematically on that defining moment.

After 106 years of independence, we are still groping for the practical implementation of an independent foreign policy.

Balancing act

Our decisions on Iraq demonstrate our ambivalence. What we have seen are mood swings, the "*urong-sulong*" (indecisiveness) of the Philippine leadership, exacerbated by an excitable media.

President Macapagal-Arroyo made the right decision to withdraw our troops to save Angelo de la Cruz but, in the first place, we should have avoided the posture of high visibility by not joining the Coalition of the Willing so quickly.

An independent foreign policy is a transcendent objective, but its implementation should be demonstrated in degrees, in measured terms, by juggling many balls in a balancing act without losing sight of the goal. This is where the real challenge lies—in the calculated response and the deliberate style.

I happened to be in the United States when the Philippines made the decision to pull out its contingent from Iraq.

Television coverage showed Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer expressing alarm over our apparent withdrawal from the Coalition of the Willing; not a word to say we were neighbors and traditional allies.

I am glad Sen. Joker Arroyo reminded Australia that our defense of Bataan and Corregidor in 1942 saved that country from Japanese invasion.

The New York Times, in its editorial of July 19 titled "A Filipino Retreat," stated: "President Arroyo's surrender shows the perils of assembling a coalition of weak allies eager to please Washington but lacking much conviction in the American cause."

Thus, US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone's position that Iraq represents a "serious disagreement" between the two countries.

We should not be upset because there are, indeed, differences.

And we should hold our ground. While in the United States, I saw not one letter in the newspapers from the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C., or from any of our four consulates, to explain the Philippine stand.

An independent foreign policy demands that we defend and explain our position, especially if misunderstood.

Other issues and situations are bound to test our capacity to be self-reliant, yet flexible, in our foreign relations.

We would be lost if we neglect that constitutional provision on forging an independent, not an episodic, policy over the long-term.

Solve unemployment: Stay off work, get paid

From page A1

will pay workers to take a guilt-free year off and replace them with long-term unemployed, who will get their foot in the door of the job market.

Following the success of regional test programs in place since 2002, Sweden plans to launch the initiative nationwide next year. Run in concert with the National Labor Market Administration (AMS), the program is aimed primarily at people at the lower end of the wage scale.

"AMS plans to prioritize three particular social groups: the long-term unemployed, the handicapped and immigrants," labor ministry spokesperson Aasa Gunnarsson told Agence France-Presse, calling feedback from the test programs "very positive."

In practice, workers who volunteer to take 12 months off work receive 85 percent of what they would normally get in unemployment insurance. With the pre-tax monthly salary ceiling set at 25,000 kronor (US$3,356), the most a worker can receive while on sabbatical is 9,550 kronor ($1,282) a month after tax.

Employment offices in small towns have responded very favorably toward the project during the test period, though it is unlikely to have the same effect in big cities, where the salary ceiling will make it difficult for many families to make ends meet.

The profile of the typical volunteer for the program is a 47-year-old woman who works in the public sector.

Birgitta Wiklund, 45, is one such person. She jumped at the opportunity when it presented itself, and in November, 2002, she packed her bags and flew off to sunny Thailand with her 10-year-old daughter for three months.

"When I got back, I was very rested, but starting work again was difficult. Without the government's help, I would never have been able to treat myself to this holiday," Wiklund, who works at a local employment office, told AFP.

Volunteers are free to travel, study, take care of their kids, build a new home or even start up a company during their year off—anything they want as long as they are not gainfully employed.

Second career

Paer-Olov Karemar, a 58-year-old accountant, took advantage of the program to launch a second career: He started a company in the United States and has three patents pending for Internet accounting.

"I've always been a bit of an innovator, but not a businessman. My six months of freedom allowed me to find a structure, a network, and ways to develop my ideas. And in addition to making my dream come true, I was also able to find myself," he said.

On the average, 52 percent of unemployed people who fill in for someone on sabbatical are offered a full-time job in the company, according to the Institute for Labor Market Policy Evaluation.

Jan Stenvall, a chiropractor by training who was left handicapped after a road accident, hopes to be among those hired full time when his replacement contract at an office in Vaesteraas, west of Stockholm, expires in December.

A full-time contract would enable him to have a "professional life adapted to my handicap," he said.

The government has allocated 159 million kronor ($21.2 million) for a three-year period, which it says will enable it to pay for 12,000 jobs per year.

That is however just a drop in the bucket, what with more than 250,000 Swedes currently out of work in a country of nine million.

In July, unemployment hit 5.6 percent of the workforce, a figure that would be enviable in most other European countries but which is a nightmare for the Swedish state. The country's generous cradle-to-grave welfare benefits are funded by high income taxes, and fewer workers means less revenues.

"What the state loses in funding this program, the unemployment office makes up for in checks it doesn't have to pay out. But what is invaluable is the effect on Swedes' health and morale," said Agneta Bostroem, spokesperson for the Green Party which originally came up with the idea. *AFP*

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New DND chief vows fight against corruption

From page A1

bidding of military equipment free from accusations of graft, Cruz said he wants a more active involvement by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in the process.

"The only way to make bidding fair and transparent is to simplify the process. And maybe if you include the religious sector, you can minimize irregularities," he said.

Cruz said he would push for the early implementation of some concessions demanded by the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF), such as the compensation of human rights victims of martial law.

This is "doable" and close to resolution but will require legislation, he said.

Cruz was dragged into a controversy last year when Malacañang nullified the contracts granted to Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) to build and operate the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3. Fraport and its Filipino partner, the Cheng family, were major investors in Piatco.

Fraport linked Cruz to alleged government efforts to pressure the German firm into ousting the Cheng family from the project.

Denying the accusations, Cruz said all meetings in Malacañang were recorded and that everything was aboveboard.

"It was the opinion of the Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor General that the contract could not be implemented and the Supreme Court upheld that. We are confident that the international arbitration on the matter will favor the government," he said.

'The Firm'

Cruz was a founding partner of the powerful Villaraza & Angangco Law Office, formerly the Carpio, Villaraza & Cruz Law Office, otherwise known as "The Firm" for its close links to Ms Arroyo and the First Gentleman.

Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio and Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo were also formerly with the law firm.

Cruz said the firm, which he left two years ago, would not have any dealings with the DND.

Wont to keep a low profile, Cruz likes to joke about the times when reporters, seeing him in Malacañang, would ask him who he was.

"Secretary Tom Cruz," he once quipped, making his name sound like that of the Hollywood actor.

He'd rather work in the background and avoid the glare of the cameras. Those days are now over.

Critics

Critics have questioned Cruz's latest appointment, saying he doesn't have the background to head the defense department and that his designation was a political payback.

" ... The decision of the President was something out-of-the-box. Usually it would be a military man at the DND," he said.

"But a civilian at the post is pursuant to the recommendations of the Davide and Feliciano Commissions. There is a need for a civilian outlook."

Cruz was referring to the Feliciano Commission, which investigated the causes of the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny and to the Davide Commission which looked into the causes of the failed 1989 coup attempt.

Cruz said he would study closer the recommendations of the two commissions and see what he could implement to avoid any more military adventurism.

Off-hand, he stressed the need to strengthen command responsibility and improving the soldiers' welfare.

Civilian efficiency

"There must be an effective grievance mechanism to provide for solutions to the problems within the Armed Forces," he said.

In his new job, Cruz aims to fuse civilian efficiency with military discipline in institutionalizing reforms, particularly in pushing the military modernization program.

CRUZ EDWIN BACASMAS

He also wants the central bank to regulate the disbursement of the soldiers' insurance and retirement funds.

Another priority is to push the revision of the Bases Conversion Development Act to increase the AFP's role in the management and sale of former military bases.

Cruz said he would also use his civilian outlook to reach a "just and legal settlement" with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the NDF.

"On one hand, we must address the root causes of these insurgencies with economic programs. On the other, we must have a firm approach," he said.

He added: "With the talks with the NDF, we want to project sincerity ... We also want to be innovative."

But he stressed that the terror tag on communist guerrillas—which the NDF wants removed—was made by a "sovereign state."

Truth Commission

"A lot of changes we would like to see institutionalized will require some laws and it has to start in the mill. More legislation will get a lot of things done as part of the package," Cruz explained.

Cruz backed the formation of a "Truth Commission" to give victims of human rights abuses during the Marcos dictatorship an opportunity to prove their claims for compensation.

"This is a matter of justice, not obligation," he said, adding that the cause of the human rights victims was close to his heart because of his activist background.

Cruz said he would also strengthen domestic efforts to fight global terrorism and favored retention of the Anti-Terrorism Task Force.

"We want to continue with improving equipment and intelligence-gathering. We must address the issue of how terrorists manage to make the country their nests and breeding ground," he said.

In this regard, he would ask help from allies like the United States and the United Kingdom.

Problem-solver

He said he might make some changes in the department but not necessarily to "demilitarize" it.

"Soldiers are disciplined professionals," he said. "But we must see to it we match their professional skills with the right job. My orientation is as a problem-solver. We must look for the root causes of the problem rather than focus on individuals."

One of Cruz's plans is to reimburse the contributions of military personnel to the AFP-Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS) as part of his efforts to boost their morale.

The financial collapse of AFP-RSBS, due to investments in real estate projects which went sour and huge losses in stock investments, was one of the grievances aired by junior military officers in last year's failed Oakwood mutiny.

Cruz said he would push for the establishment of an insurance system for soldiers "run by professional managers under the supervision of the Insurance Commission."

Among the recommendations of the Feliciano Commission were the liquidation of the AFP-RSBS, an end to compulsory contributions of soldiers, and the establishment of a more "professional" pension fund for soldiers.

A group of DND employees, who requested anonymity, told the INQUIRER that the department should be "decongested" of men in uniform occupying sensitive, middle management and rank-and-file positions.

The group also claimed that DND funds were being depleted for out-of-town trips of military men in the department.

"They apply for travel orders even if they are just going home to their provinces. These travel orders with the corresponding travel allowances take a toll on the finances of the department," one employee said.

Another employee said the department "is littered with military assistants who are not qualified for their jobs. They make some division chiefs look ineffective and inutile."

There are offices and positions which perform the same functions, the employees said.

They said they were adopting a "wait-and-see" attitude toward Cruz.

The DND has around 600 officers and enlisted personnel of the AFP in its ranks.

Outgoing Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita defended the appointment of Cruz, saying his successor "does not have to know too much about military strategy or tactics because he is a policy maker."

Business not represented in Cabinet

From page A1

ment secretary, Michael Defensor, former head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and unofficially a presidential political adviser.

The perception that Cruz was too politically engaged in the last election campaign and was in Ms Arroyo's inner circle is not founded on fact.

There are many things that Cruz was doing as presidential legal adviser that are not known and that have earned him the displeasure of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. Cruz stood in the way of Mike Arroyo's interventions that could have spelled embarrassment for the President during the campaign.

In the case of Ermita, he played a key role in getting the military behind the administration's efforts to prevent the Oakwood mutiny from developing into a serious political crisis with the involvement of a significant part of the military.

Ermita in Malacañang and Cruz in defense are a tandem that is calculated to consolidate the President's position in the Armed Forces, allowing Ms Arroyo to reduce her dependence on the military for regime survival.

Narrow base

Taking into account those appointed in the first round of appointments, the Cabinet has a narrow base that shuts the flow of new ideas.

The business community is the most unrepresented sector in the Cabinet. Most of the Cabinet members come from the political class, although the question of regional representation and political rewards has not been ignored.

The appointments announced last week emphasized two issues—first, the return of civilian authority in the defense department; and second, the naming of a noncareer diplomat as foreign secretary (Romulo).

Even so, the appointments have failed to clear uncertainties in the minds of businessmen. There is a canyon of a gap in the Cabinet on who will compose the President's economic team.

The reaction from the business chambers has been qualified, with some saying that the appointments have been "generally good and acceptable." But the business sector continues to fret on the still hazy makeup of the economic team and is looking at the new appointments for signs of how vigorous the administration will attack the tailspin of the fiscal deficit.

The businessmen feel uncertain, for instance, over whether there will be changes in the finance department, office of budget management, labor department, trade and industry department, National Economic and Development Authority and the public works department.

The overrepresentation of the bureaucracy or technocracy and politicians in the Cabinet was noted by one business think tank, which said "there are just too many bureaucrats" in the Cabinet.

Seen as a team

Ms Arroyo defended her appointments, saying they should be seen as a team. There were two important criteria, she said. She selected from those "best suited" for the job and those "who will implement my programs."

"They must agree with me, they must be an extension of me," she said. "I can't have a Cabinet members whom I will be arguing with all the time." She said that "as a second termer, I know the people suited for the job."

These criteria—a prescription for sterility and timidity in the Cabinet—may also explain why Ms Arroyo chose to recruit from among the ranks of bureaucrats, politicians and potential "yes" people.

The lesson of the sacking of former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. as secretary of foreign affairs—because he contradicted publicly Ms Arroyo's pro-American foreign policy—is still too fresh.

If the President has been too restrictive in her recruitment base for her Cabinet, the political opposition is equally disappointing and sterile in raising issues against the appointments. Opposition leaders slammed the appointments as "a game of musical chairs" motivated by political payback.

This line of attack is old hat. It is not valid to criticize the appointments on the grounds that the new Cabinet members are not fit for the job.

The best judge of who is best suited for the job is the appointing power herself. The opposition is expected to single out appointees whose credentials it will examine at the Commission on Appointments.

Blocking appointments has often been done not on the larger context of policy but mainly on petty narrow personal considerations, not excluding bad chemistry between the nominee for Cabinet posts and members of the commission.

The issue of payback is naive and reflects a lack of grasp of political reality. Political rewards are an essential fact of Philippine political life.

Can any politician, including those in the opposition, ever name any president since Manuel L. Quezon, who did not consider political rewards in the formation of a Cabinet. What's relevant is to attack the appointments on the issue of whether, considering their credentials, they are compatible with the President's objectives.

More original

The opposition owes it to the public to be more original and contextual in opposing the administration's decisions and policies. We are not getting from the opposition any refreshing political vocabulary, other than worn-out clichés.

Gonzalez, Abad and Durano may be validly criticized for having played important political roles to help in the President's election. To say that their political activity on behalf of Ms Arroyo's campaign makes them unqualified for their portfolios and automatically translates to partisan decisions in the Cabinet prejudges them and overstates the argument.

In the case of Abad, it is too premature to prejudge him. As a politician, Abad is not a peanut politician. He not only steered the revival of the Liberal party allowing it to gain seats in the House. He also has academic credentials that have been overshadowed by his political activity.

In opposing a Cabinet nominee at the Commission on Appointments, the opposition must offer stronger arguments than nitpicking, which is bad enough but which is made worse by the repetition of hackneyed arguments.

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Robbers shoot and kill two in QC rampage

UPSIDE DOWN JESS YUSON
A man hopes to serve his family mussels for lunch as he dives into the waters of the Manila Bay Sunday.

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

QUEZON City is gaining a bad reputation.

Last week, the police said it had the most number of crime incidents in Metro Manila for the first seven months of the year.

The statistics just shot up after robbers shot dead two victims yesterday and on Saturday.

Jaime Calleja, 50, an auditor working for the Commission on Audit, was gunned down during a robbery inside a passenger jeepney at about 4:30 a.m.

Hours earlier, at 11:20 p.m. Saturday, two motorcycle-riding robbers shot Wilma Jacobe, 20.

Fairview-bound

Calleja was with his son Sabuar, who is in his late 20s, when five gunmen declared the holdup while the Fairview-bound jeepney was passing through Barangay Central.

When Calleja refused to hand over his wristwatch, a suspect shot him.

The bullet entered the right side of his back and exited his right chest. He died on the spot, police said.

In the earlier incident, Jacobe was waiting for a jeepney at the corner of Santolan and Sanciangco Streets in Barangay Sto. Niño when two men on a red motorcycle stopped in front of her and declared a holdup.

Shot in armpit

Jacobe resisted but one of the robbers shot her in the left armpit.

A witness took the victim to the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center but she died while undergoing treatment.

The robbers escaped with Jacobes wallet, which contained P50, police said.

In a report, the National Capital Region Police Office said 2,068 cases of crime were recorded in the city from January to July.

City officials blamed this on the city's size.

San Juan opens 5-hour coding window

SAN JUAN is in.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said yesterday that vehicles banned by the number coding scheme could already pass through San Juan between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mayor JV Ejercito earlier told the agency that he had decided to adapt the 5-hour window during which the coding scheme is suspended.

Ejercito explained that San Juan gave in to appeals by motorists who pass by Aurora Boulevard and Ortigas Avenue during these hours. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

NCRPO tells cops to attend to cases

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ATTEND hearings or face a dismissal hearing.

The National Capital Regional Police Office warned its men yesterday that negligent lawmen could end up losing their jobs.

In a memorandum, the NCRPO said policemen should attend court hearings where they are the principal witnesses or the arresting officers.

The NCRPO noted that a considerable number of cases had been dismissed, archived or had resulted in the acquittal of the accused because the policemen involved failed to testify in court.

At the same time, administrative and personnel officers of police stations were told to immediately inform concerned policemen of subpoena telling these to appear in court.

Deadly child's play

By Tarra Quismundo

DANGER: Children at play.

It was a thought that never crossed the mind of the mother of a year-old boy who was strangled to death while playing at home in Paco, Manila.

The single mother left the child yesterday with his 7-year-old sister and a 6-year-old neighbor to do a neighbor's laundry.

After lunch, the children played with a rope made of blue, soft cloth which police believe the playmates wrapped around the boy's neck.

When the boy fell limp, his playmates thought he was acting. They then also played dead.

An hour later, the sister felt scared that her brother was no longer moving and called help.

The boy was supposed to turn two in December.

Teener saves relatives but loses life in blaze

By Margaux C. Ortiz

SHE SAVED lives but lost her own.

Sixteen-year-old Jenny Ocampo was roused from sleep at 12:40 a.m. yesterday because of smoke filling her room.

She stepped out and found their home at 14 Sweetpea St., Doña Manuela Subdivision, Las Piñas, on fire.

The ceiling fan in their living room had apparently overheated and had set their ceiling ablaze

A cousin of Ocampo forgot to turn off the fan, fire investigator SFO3 Noel Consignado said.

Acting quickly, the girl yelled and roused her relatives, all of whom managed to escape the flames that was fast spreading to other parts of the house.

Braulio Bedico, an uncle of Ocampo, reportedly suffered second degree burns and was rushed to the Las Piñas District Hospital.

While Ocampo's relatives were securing their belongings, the girl reportedly rushed back into the house to get something.

She never came out.

The window grills prevented Ocampo from getting out of the house, Consignado said.

Arson investigators said P1 million worth of property, including two of Bedico's eight tricycles, were destroyed by the fire.

The fire, which was put out at 1:50 a.m., partially ruined the roofs of two adjacent houses.

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At that time, we agreed to manage and operate the water systems and pay for their services.

Government, on the other hand, promised to leave the Local Water Districts unmolested, as a private, community enterprise; and hold it free and exempt from any taxes, permit fees, and other charges of both national and local governments.

In October last year, however, the Bureau of Internal Revenue issued Memorandum Circular No. 63-2003 directing the collection of Income Taxes and Franchise Taxes. Before we know it, other fees and charges will be imposed by Government.

Our water utilities are not for-profit operations. They pass on all their costs to the customers – US!

In the Leyte Metro Water District alone, it is estimated that water rates will go up by as much as 200% with the new taxes. This is an unfair burden for the water concessionaires.

Power rates are up because power companies want more returns or profits.

Gasoline pump price is up because the market for oil in New York and the rest of the world is at its highest ever.

Other commodities are more expensive because they use more expensive oil and power to produce.

Water rates will go up because Government wants to collect more taxes, never mind if it reneges on the tax exemptions promised to the water districts at their inception.

The impact of an increase in the cost of water will cut across all sectors. But will be more devastating for those with the least income.

This is a burden that can be avoided.

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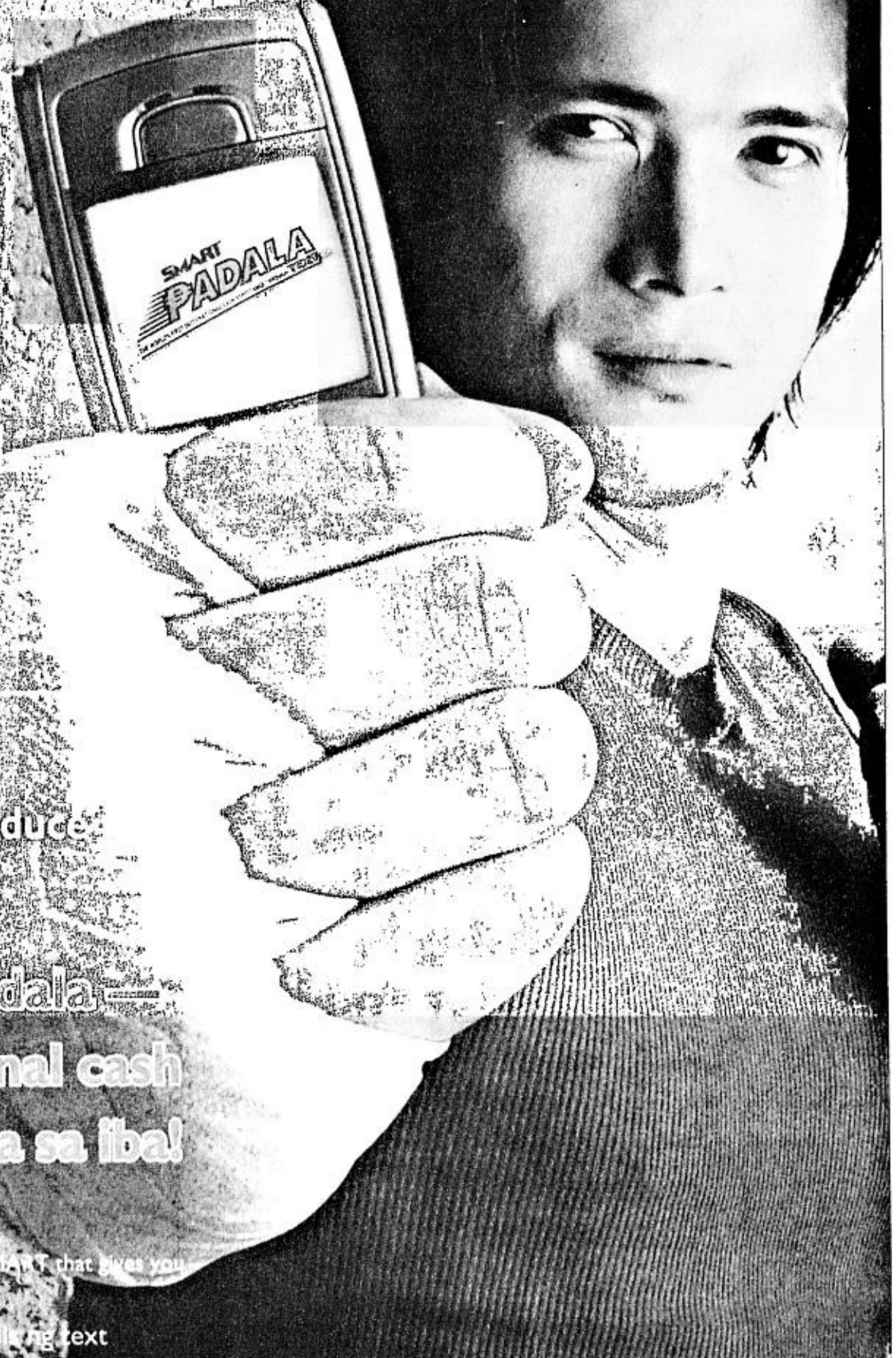

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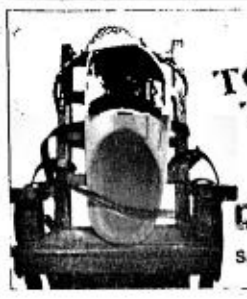
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Tañamor, last RP ring hope, comes to grief

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—He fought the wrong fight at the worst time. He opted to do battle at close quarters when he should have been firing long-range missiles. Even from up close, his punches landed short of the wrong target.

Still, his seconds thought light flyweight Harry Tañamor won. They were wrong. They also thought they were robbed. Again, they were wrong.

Thus ended the Philippines' brief run for the elusive gold medal in the boxing competition of the 28th Olympic Games Saturday with Tañamor absorbing the final beating as he went down to

TAÑAMOR/ A26

HARRY Tañamor (above right) lands a blow to the body of South Korea's Hong Moo Won during their fight in Athens. AP

Boxing gets it on the chin

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.

ATHENS—It's back to the drawing board for Philippine boxing following debacles that have shut out the Filipinos from Olympic boxing medals for two consecutive Games.

"We will reassess our program," said Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap) the morning after Harry Tañamor, the last of the surviving Filipino boxers, lost his second round fight against South Korea's Hong Moo Won. "When we get back to Manila, we will find out where we went wrong. We will go back to the drawing board."

Since the silver medal performance of Mansueto

BOXING/ A30

UAAP: Archers mangle Eagles A29

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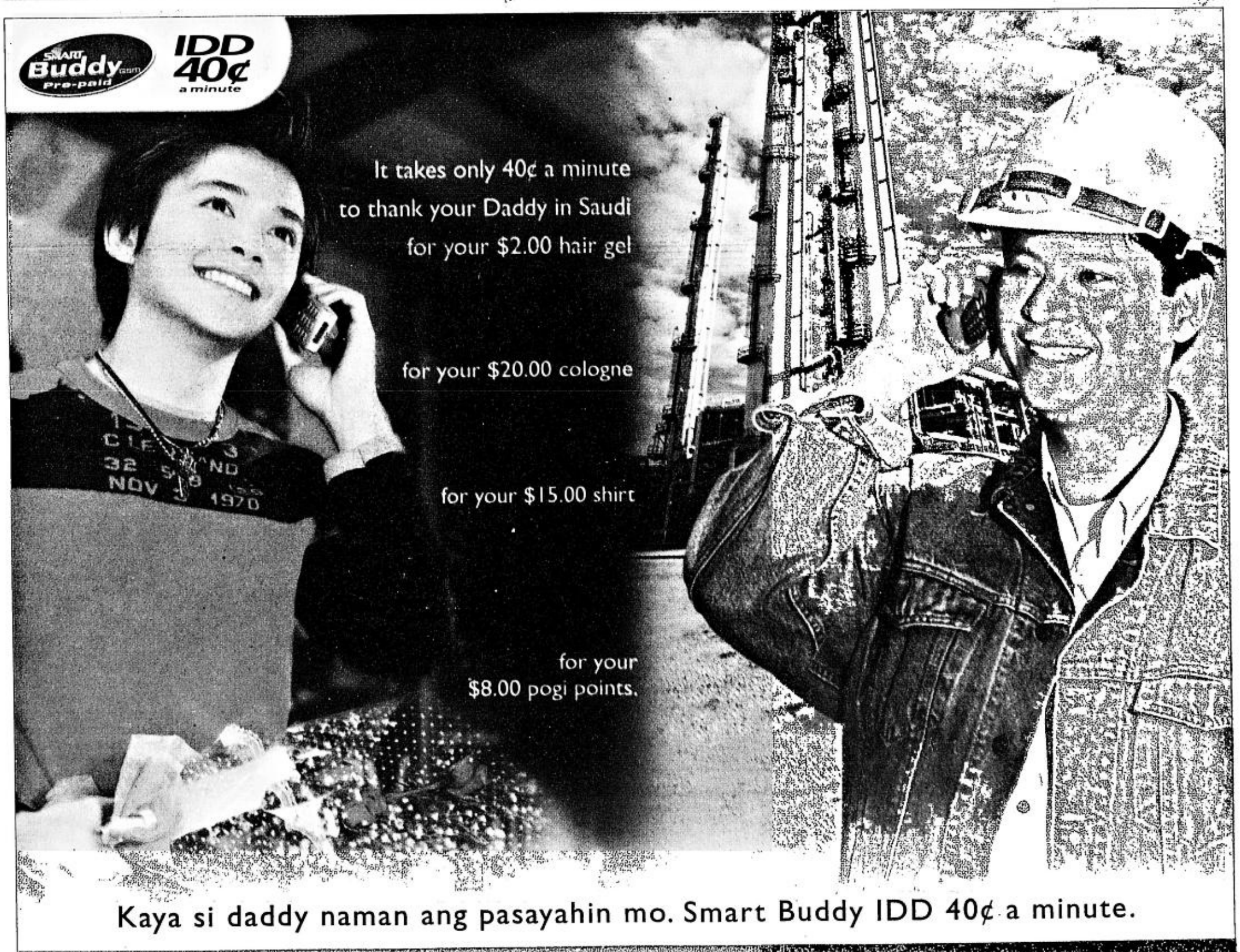

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Mediocrity is the name of the RP game

ATHENS—The Philippine Olympic boxing team did it wrong, very wrong, again.

It sank before it could even sail off.

But it did not merely miss winning a medal, as had happened in the Sydney Games in 2000.

It never had a shot at the target altogether here in Athens.

The hideous stand in the current Olympics manifested clear decline.

But a sickening trend shows the same sure-lose program could be used for the 2008 Beijing Olympics again.

* * *

There'll be no stopping the decay.

Yes, those who had lost here may resurface in Beijing for the 2008 Olympics campaign.

Sample: Romeo Brin had failed in two successive Olympics, losing his first bouts in both Atlanta 1996 and Sydney. All he had to do was cram and shed three kilos in a week to make it to Athens, where he predictably got massacred.

Thank God, Brin had sworn this would be his last and final Olympic debacle.

This is not the case with light flyweight Harry Tañamor, a pitiful punching bag against a Korean warrior at the Pesteri Olympic Hall Saturday.

* * *

At the rate the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines has been recycling losers, Tañamor and flyweight Violito Payla may again don RP colors in succeeding international campaigns.

Failure seems to be among ABAP's requirements for a boxer to keep fighting for flag and country.

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

Mediocrity is the name of the game.

A shallow, feeble program was unearthed following the ABAP failure to qualify fighters in three light divisions—bantamweight, featherweight, lightweight—for Athens.

Brin made it as a failed Olympian for the third time because there was no one in sight to effectively sideline him.

Chris Camat did qualify for Athens, but he entered the Olympics proper only after having suffered a stoppage in his final bout during the Puerto Princesa qualifier.

Tañamor was not too different from the not-too-worthy breed as he too had to be recycled after losing miserably in his gold-medal bout in the 2002 Busan Asian Games.

* * *

For the record, the RP boxing team failed to land a single medal in the Sydney Olympics.

That was already the worst RP stand since Leopoldo Serantes ended a 24-year medal drought with a bronze in Seoul 1988, Roel Velasco won another bronze in Barcelona 1992, and Onyok Velasco settled for a silver after being cheated out of the gold in Atlanta 1996.

The zero medal tally in Sydney showed RP had stagnated.

The dismal stand here in Athens clearly bared the Philippines has retrogressed.

While Olympic boxers from medal-winning countries continue to move on to higher heights, riding on sound, tested, scientific programs, RP remains stuck blind in a cave.

* * *

Of course, with a rich, willing field of aspirants, there are worthier boxers who, once tapped and given the right handling and care, could help the program break from the shackles of near-primitivism.

The gap, as had been pitifully demonstrated here, gets wider every four years, from Olympics to Olympics, as Pinoys continue to dream of an Olympic gold, thereby getting hostaged in a faulty, sure-lose system.

It's no longer funny.

There must be an end to this swindle.

Tañamor, last RP ring hope ... From page A25

South Korea's Hong Moo Won.

A decision to do battle at close quarters made Tañamor a sucker for the Korean's wicked right and the Filipino stuck to the battle plan to the bitter end, losing a 25-42 points decision that wiped out the last of the Philippine medal hopes in boxing.

"We were making the hits to the body, but we were not making the points," complained boxing coach George Caliwan. "I think we won the fight."

Tañamor, the country's best bet for a medal in the Games, thus joined three other boxers in the sidelines, leaving only the three-man taekwondo team of Tshomlee Go, Donald Geisler III and Marie Antionette Rivero and the two entries in athletics to pick up the pieces of what is turning out to be another Olympic debacle for the Philippines.

While the taekwondo jins may have outside chances of winning a medal, Lerma Bulauitan Gabito and marathon runner Eduardo Buenavista have none whatsoever.

It was the second straight shutout for Philippine boxers in the Olympic Games. They also came up empty in the Sydney Olympics in 2000 following the silver medal of Mansueto Velasco in the Atlanta Games in 1996.

The wipeout prompted Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit to suggest "radical and difficult changes" in the country's amateur boxing program to make it up to date with the rest of the Olympic and international standards.

Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, acknowledged there was a need to go "back to the drawing board" for the Abap program. *(See related story)*

Caliwan thought they were doing the right thing when they sent the usually shifty Tañamor to battle with only one target in mind—the body. Boxing officials led by former Manila Mayor Gemiliano Lopez Jr. had suggested that the new scoring approach allowed for points to be scored with blows to the body.

So Tañamor climbed the ring at the Peristeri Olympic Boxing Hall with that—and that alone—in mind, hoping to win the second round match and move to the quarterfinals and on the verge of at least a bronze medal.

For four rounds, the Filipino attacked, delivering one puny blow after another to the body in rapid succession, just like Fernando Poe Jr. in the movies.

But this was real-life combat, and once the Korean learned what Tañamor was up to, he knew exactly what to do and quickly changed tactics. He lowered his defenses and attacked upstairs, landing his solid right with devastating precision, again and again.

Tañamor was slower to adjust. In fact, he failed to adjust at all and he was fighting with the same strategy to the bitter end.

He thus followed the fate of middleweight Christopher Camat, flyweight Violito Payla and light welterweight Romeo Brin, who were earlier eliminated. Camat and Payla lost their fights in the first round while Brin and Tañamor won in the first round but fell in the second round.

It was a fight Tañamor could—and should—have won, had he been just his old deadly self. But with the shift in strategy, he was not even a shadow of the dreaded fighter who was rated No. 3 in the world in his division.

Tañamor, who outpointed Tajekistan's Sherali Dostiev in the first round on Wednesday, had the initiative against Hong right after the opening bell. He surprised the Korean with a right to the head then with a series of blows to the body.

That gave the Filipino a 4-0 edge with the strategy. But the Korean got wiser halfway through the round and when Tañamor waded in, he unleashed a right to the face to score his first point.

Finding the soft spot, the Korean did it again. And again he scored. So while Tañamor was concentrating his attack on the body, he left his head defenseless and vulnerable to the Korean's deadly right.

And soon, his body shots were either no longer finding the mark or were too short to even tickle the Korean's chops, much less register on the Richter scale.

By the time the round ended, the Korean had equalized at 10-10.

Tañamor went with the same attack in the second round, but by this time, the Korean had his number. Defending himself downstairs and occasionally unleashing a shot to the head, the Korean was very effective. He took the lead at 13-10 and 14-11.

Midway through the second round, Hong mixed it up in a furious exchange of body blows, but suddenly he pulled away with another right to the face.

Toward the end of the round, Tañamor was still swinging away at the body, hitting nothing and taking solid head shots. The round ended with the Korean ahead 23-15.

No one told him he was doing it wrong, so he came back with more of the same in the third and final round. The Korean found no reason to change tactics. The only time he did was when he started dancing away with a big lead toward the end of the fight and even as he did, he continued to pile up the points.

"We lost," conceded the elder Lopez, who oversaw the boxing team's final preparation for the Olympics because his son, Manny, had to serve in the Games' jury of appeals. He confirmed that the strategy was to go for the body since television coverage of the fights indicated that shots to the body were scoring as well as the headshots.

"We were told to attack downstairs," Caliwan said in Tagalog. "We were hitting the Korean in the body. We thought we won. It turned out the judges were not scoring the points."

Hong, who had beaten Tañamor in the finals of the Olympic qualifying tournament in Karachi, Pakistan earlier this year, will next fight the favorite in the division, Cuba's Yan Bhartelemy Varela, points winner over Thailand's Suban Pannon.

The victory put Bhartelemy on track for a showdown for the gold medal against the other top favorite, Russia's Sergey Kazakov, although the Cuban still has to hurdle a possible semifinal assignment against China's Zou Shiming.

WHILE Filipino Harry Tañamor (right) concentrated his attack on the body, South Korean Hong Moo Won scored points with pin-prick hits to the Filipino's head. The South Korean won, 42-25. AFP

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region Office 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE OF RE-AUCTION OF RAW SUGAR "B" STOCKS

The National Food Authority, Regional Office 10, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City invites all interested licensed sugar traders, industrial users and other interested buyers to participate and tender offers in the auction for the whole lot of 102,615.35 Lkg. Raw Sugar "B" or Domestic Sugar located at the following sugar mill:

LOT	PROVINCE	SUGAR MILL	QUANTITY (In Lkg)	INDICATIVE PRICE (P/Lkg)
1	Bukidnon	Crystal Milling Corporation	102,615.35	P760.00, Net of Liens ex-mill

The sale shall be for the total volume ex-mill on an "as-is-where-is" and no selection basis.

All interested offerors are required to post a Bid Bond equivalent to 10% of the total amount offered in the form of Cash / Manager's Check or PNB Demand Draft payable to NFA.

Only prospective bidders who have submitted the following requirements to the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) prior to Auction proper are qualified to participate.

1. Original and one (1) certified photocopy of Sugar Trading License / DTI Registration / Mayor's Permit.
2. Original and one (1) certified photocopy of SEC / CDA Registration for partnership / cooperative.
3. Duly notarized Special Power of Attorney from the sole proprietor or Board Resolution from the secretary/chairman certifying that the representative is presently connected with the entity as an official / employee / stockholder and is authorized to represent the same in the Auction and all activities pertinent therein.

The auction shall be conducted at the NFA-10 Regional Office Conference Room, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City on the following schedule:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME
Submission of Requirements	Aug. 30, 2004	8:30-10:00 A.M.
Pre-Auction Conference	Aug. 30, 2004	10:00 A.M.

Auction Proper will follow after the Pre-Auction Conference.

The auction terms and conditions and tender forms can be secured from the RBAC Secretariat at NFA-10, Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City, after payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such bids which in its judgment are deemed most reasonable and advantageous to the NFA.

For more details, please contact the RBAC Secretariat Head, Ms. Emma P. Asiñero at Telephone Nos. (088-22)-732215 and (088)-8552721.

(Sgd.) CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO
Asst. Regional Director
RBAC-NORMIN Chairman

(PDI – August 21 & 23, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
San Francisco, Agusan del Sur

NOTICE OF COVERAGE AND FIELD INVESTIGATION

Pursuant to Section 7 of R.A. 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, landowners, listed below with their landholdings and location are hereby notified that their landholdings are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program

	LANDOWNER	LOCATION	TITLE NO.	LOT NO.	AREA	DATE OCCULAR INSPECTION
1.	TERESITA BRIONES	MABUHAY, BAYUGAN, AGUSAN DEL SUR	(P-2277) 1316	817, PLS-224	8.3279	9/13/4
2.	FRANCISCO BRIONES	MABUHAY, BAYUGAN, AGUSAN DEL SUR	T-3444	829, PLS-224	7.7093	9/13/4
3.	PAULINA JAPSON	TAGUBAY, BAYUGAN, AGUSAN DEL SUR	(P-3699)-P-2350	771, PLS-224	11.6816	9/14/4
4.	JOSEFINA & SATURNINO BALDUMAR	TAGUBAY, BAYUGAN, AGUSAN DEL SUR	T-2412	818, PLS-224	7.3453	9/14/4
5.	QUEZON GAMIAO	ILIHAN, SIBAGAT, AGUSAN DEL SUR	T-495	205, PLS-223	7.9621	9/14/4
6.	SUSANO LUMASAG	ILIHAN, SIBAGAT, AGUSAN DEL SUR	P-716	122, PLS-223	7.6049	9/14/4
7.	MARCIANO GAQUIT	GAMAO, BAYUGAN, AGUSAN DEL SUR	(P-6793) P-4901	1099, PLS-225	8.0866	9/15/4
8.	REY MONTALBAN	POBLACION, SIBAGAT, AGUSAN DEL SUR	T-4395	65, PLS-223	7.6498	9/15/4
9.	MARGARITO CUTAMORA	EL RIO, SIBAGAT, AGUSAN DEL SUR	P-2186	126, GSS-840	5.3902	9/15/4
10.	NENA MARUGA	ZILLOVIA, TALACOGON, AGUSAN DEL SUR	T-11082	324, PLS-750	8.2769	9/16/4
11.	FULGENCIO CASAS	MAHAYAHAY, SIBAGAT, AGUSAN DEL SUR	(T-226) 160	2, PLS-223	9.4106	9/16/4
12	SIMPLICIO BALIGWAT	TABON-TABON SIBAGAT, AGUSAN DEL SUR	P-2108	189, GSS-840	6.6885	9/16/4
13.	DBP	SAN TORIBIO, ESPERANZA AGUSAN, DEL SUR	T-4010	1464, PLS-443	23.9985	9/17/4
	TOTAL				120.1322	

In this connection may we invite the landowners or their authorized representatives to a field investigation to be conducted on the date indicated herein. During the investigation, landholders may choose or pinpoint their retained area in accordance with Section 6 of R.A. 6657, which area should be more or less contiguous. Failure to attend said meeting or to choose retained area will mean that the office is given the discretion to identify the same.

Landowners are also advised to bring Statement of Production and Net Income on the said landholdings to be used as input in the determination of the land value.

Under Executive Order No. 405, dated 14 June 1990, we shall request the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) to determine the land value of the said properties being acquired pursuant to Section 17 of R.A. 6657. As soon as we receive the Memorandum of Valuation from the LBP, we shall advise the landowners of the computed land value of the properties.

(Sgd.) FE B. MERCADO
Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II

(PDI--Aug. 9, 16 & 23, 2004)

DESPITE GLITCHES

Putra Cuppers in high spirits

By Musong R. Castillo

LIPPO KARAWAWACII, Indonesia—A mysterious illness to a key player, a long wait due to a lost baggage at the airport and all the organizational shortcomings one can think of marked Team Philippines' first day in the Putra Cup.

Michael Bibat has been suffering from an unknown ailment since dawn yesterday and the entire delegation had to linger for two extra hours at the Bandara Sukarno Hatta airport in Jakarta because Jun Bernis' luggage could not be found.

Bibat was rushed to a nearby hospital at 2:30 a.m., complaining of a severe headache and a bleeding nose. Doctors here have yet to determine what caused the ailment.

And no one from the host Indonesia Golf Association has made himself visible to the participants in the 44th edition of what is known as Southeast Asia's official team championship, which tees off tomorrow.

Only a bus driver met the RP Team upon its arrival in Jakarta and the players themselves had to book their practice round at the par-72 Imperial Golf Club here.

The Filipinos seek to win the Putra Cup for the first time since 1996 at the 6,337-yard tree-lined, bunker-laden layout without ace Juvic Pagunsan, who was unable to return on time from his stint in the US Amateurs in New York.

Still, coach Roger Retuerto remains upbeat about the Filipinos' chances in the seven-nation field.

"We could have had a solid team if Juvic (Pagunsan) was here," Retuerto said in Filipino. "But our players have been practicing well and I believe that we still have a decent chance at winning this."

Marvin Dumandan has become the spearhead of the team in the absence of Pagunsan.

The newly married Dumandan, Bernis, Bibat and the veteran Boyet Saragoza yesterday sampled the uneven fairways and huge greens of this public course where precision, more than power, off the tees is a premium.

A junior side of the event will also be played for the first time with Tonlits Asistio, Laurence Negrido, Gene Bunyi and Matthew Manotoc representing the country.

Bayron wins pulling away at tough Apo

DAVAO—Jay Bayron closed out with a one-under-par 71 yesterday and streaked to a nine-stroke victory in the Samsung Amateur Tour's fourth elimination leg at the Apo Golf Club course here.

Living up to his billing as the tournament favorite, Bayron capped an impressive stint that saw him break par in the last three rounds by shooting an eagle on the par-5 18th hole of the course which hosted the Philippine Open in 1995.

Up by eight after Saturday's third round, Bayron wound up with a 286 total.

Ranil Glimada, who led the first round and shared the lead with Bayron after two days, matched par 72 and settled for second at 295.

Glimada gave Bayron, a former national player and now a member of Canlubang's stable of amateur talents, an early scare when he birdied three in a row from the fifth and narrowed the gap to just four at the turn with a 33. Bayron double-bogeyed the ninth for a 37.

But that was the closest Glimada could get as Bayron birdied the 10th and he stumbled with back-to-back bogeys on Nos. 14 and 15.

Dino Yap (80-160) survived a rally by Benjie Leparto (78-161) to win the Class B division by one in the tournament also backed by Tokyo Tokyo, Gatorade, Philippine Airlines, adidas Taylor Made, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport and Rogin-E. Killer-Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

Glenn Ching (84-168) topped Class C and Eloy Olmoguez (94-108) ruled Class D to complete the roster of winners. Ching beat Bandjo Saban by 11 and Olmoguez won over Robert Lim by six.

Bayron and Glimada and the top two finishers in the other divisions for both men and ladies received a Samsung 17-inch flat television and a DVD player, respectively, from Boy Blue Ocampo of the organizing Professional Sports Management Group.

The Tour now goes back to Luzon for the next leg of its nationwide elimination schedule at the Mt. Malarayat in Lipa City on Sept. 27-30. For inquiries, call the PSMG at 635-0010.

Kart series goes back to BRC this weekend

STANDINGS

Rotax Max Seniors:—1. Mike Tuason 242 pts., 2. Marcel Thenu 130, 3. Tim Gosnel 113, 4. Archie Rublo 103, 5. Lee Bumgarner 86, 6. Manuel Sy 85, 7. JP Carino, Tyson Sy 40.

MIKE Tuason of Tuason Racing-Addict Mobile aims to solidify his title bid in the Rotax Max Seniors when the 2004 Shell-PCSO Superkarting Series unveils its fifth leg next weekend, Aug. 28-29, at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

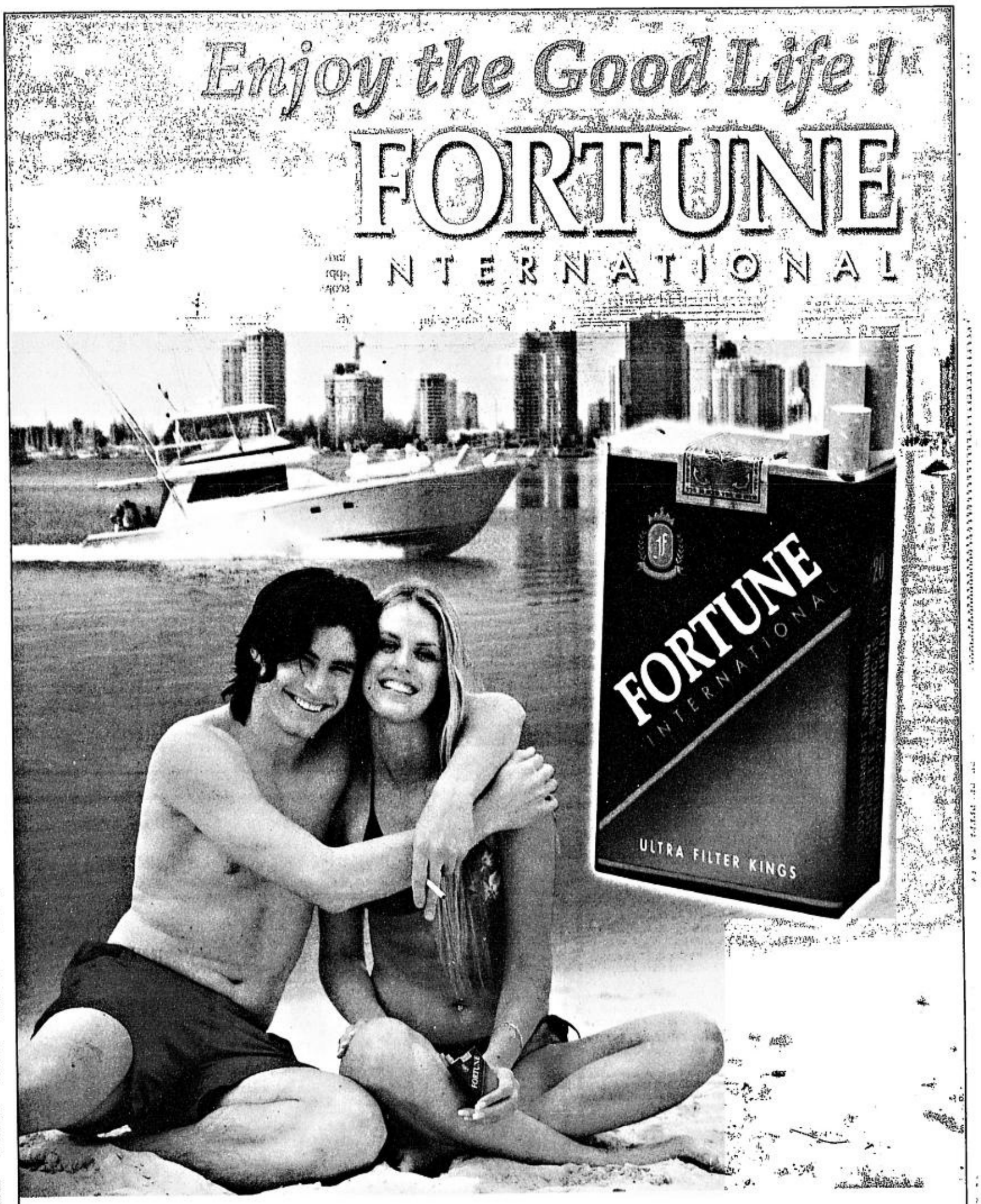
It will be the second time the series will be held outside the Carmona Circuit Philippines after the successful staging at the Kart Trak of the Enchanted Kingdom.

Tuason displayed versatility at the Kart Trak, overpowering his rivals in all three races last month, to widen his lead to 242 points in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

Asian Zone Karting veterans champion Marcel Thenu and Tim Gosnel moved up to second and third with 130 and 113 points, respectively, while Archie Rubio of Bosch-Intelco (103) and Lee Bumgarner of M&M Racing (86) round out the top five.

Joining them in the huge 23-man field are Manuel Sy of Primus Racedevils, Bosch-Intelco lead driver JP Carino, Othmar Stutz, Oliver Yao and Tyson Sy of Demvels.

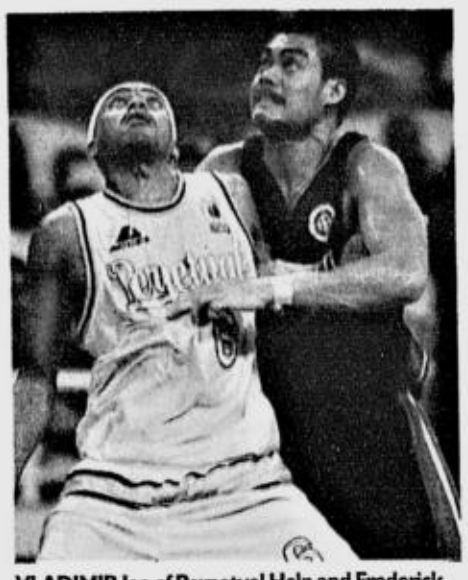
Also favored are Maico Angeles of Primus Racedevils, Bosch-Intelco's Oliver Aquino and Ayrton Cuesta in this event sponsored by the Pilipinas Shell, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes office, Bridgestone, Aviva Insurance, Eastway Motorcycle Racing and Denso Iridium Power.



Government Warning:
Cigarette Smoking is Dangerous to Your Health.

Vilog noses out Quilala; Pilapil scores

NATIONAL champions George Vilog and Ryan Mendoza upheld their status by ruling the triathlon and duathlon events, respectively, in Laguna's multi-sports weekend yesterday. The 28-year-old Vilog rallied to beat promising 16-year-old Emmanuel Quilala in the 800-meter swim, 20-K bike and 3-K run in the TRAP-sanctioned event. Vilog caught up with Quilala in the last 400 m of the 3-K run and then sprinted to the finish to win with a time of 59 minutes and 56 seconds. Quilala timed 59:58. Third place in the event sponsored by Gov. Ningning Lazaro and the provincial government of Laguna went to another veteran, Mark Candelaria, (1:00.46) while national triathlon team assistant coach Peter Gonzales finished fourth. In the distaff side, a trio of teenage triathletes led by last year's Asian Aquathlon champion Josephine Pilapil, dominated the field. Pilapil, 17, beat national teammate Mimi Lucas, 14, for the crown, clocking 1:06.38 to Lucas' 1:07.55 while 15-year-old Janele Lynn took third in 1:21.03. Perennial duathlon champion Mendoza took center stage in the 5K run-20K bike-5K run event by clocking 54:23. Baguio-based Jefferson Valdez was second in 58.21 while Hiroshi Takei clocked 59:29 for third. Defending Milo Marathon champion Lisa Yambao from UST topped the event in 1:08.03. Luisa Raterta finished second in 1:14.59.



VLADIMIR Joe of Perpetual Help and Frederick Rodriguez of Letran jockey for the rebound in last week's game won by Letran, 84-70. ROMY HOMILLADA

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	7	4
Perpetual	7	4
SSC	7	4
PCU	7	4
Mapua	6	5
San Beda	6	5
JRU	4	7
St. Benilde	0	11

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—JRU vs Perpetual (Jrs)
1:15 p.m.—JRU vs Perpetual (Srs)
3 p.m.—PCU vs San Sebastian (Jrs)
4:45 p.m.—PCU vs San Sebastian (Srs)

Stags seek NCAA lead

THREE of the four frontrunners in the NCAA senior basketball tournament see action today with the San Sebastian Stags and the Philippine Christian U Dolphins clashing in the featured match at the Rizal Coliseum.

Gametime is 4:45 p.m. with the winner gaining at least a share of the lead.

The Perpetual Help Altas also aim to grab a piece of the top spot when they battle the Jose Rizal Bombers earlier at 1:15 p.m.

The Altas, Stags, Dolphins and Letran's defending champion Knights have 7-4 win-loss cards with Mapua and San Beda very much in Final Four contention at 6-5.

San Sebastian repulsed PCU, 74-65, in the first round as veteran Leo Najorda finished with 21 points.

But this was way before PCU rookie Gabby Espinas had flashed his deadly form with double-double performances in the second round. The 22-year-old Amerasian, who recently grabbed a season-record 22 rebounds, averaged 14.3 points and 13.5 rebounds in his last four games.

Meanwhile, Perpetual doesn't want to see a repeat of its first-round meeting with JRU. The Altas had zoomed to the top with a six-game winning streak in the first round after a 72-61 loss to the Bombers in the season-opener.

With its 4-7 record, JRU is in danger of missing the Final Four for the first time in five years. To secure a playoff berth in the semis, the Bombers have to sweep their remaining games and pray that at least three of the six teams ahead of them lose all their matches.

Jasmine W. Payo

RP karatekas bag 5 golds, finish 4th

THE PHILIPPINES, striking heavily in the kumite competition, captured five gold medals to finish fourth overall in a field of 25 countries in the 13th KOI Karate World Cup held recently at the Megatrade Halls 1, 2 and 3 of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The young Filipino karatekas bagged all five golds in the kumite through Roberto Miguel Velasquez in the 15-under boys' class, Raissa Mikaela Velasquez (12-13 girls), Rebecca Cyril Torres (10-11 girls), Kristoffer Nebrija (9-years boys) and Miguel Avenido (8 years boys).

The hosts also collected 9 silver and 32 bronze medals to end up behind overall champion Russia, first runner-up Vietnam and third placer Japan.

The Russians pooled 8 golds, two more than the output of the Vietnamese and the Japanese.

Vietnam, which sent its national team in preparation for the Manila Southeast Asian Games next year, wound up second with a 3-1 edge over Japan in silver medals won.

Malaysia also sent its national team and took 4 golds, 3 silvers and 3 bronzes for fifth place.

The Filipinos' performances—which bettered the two-gold haul of two RP teams in two previous World Cups in Germany and Greece—impressed Manuel "Pocholo" Veguillas, chair of host AAK.

KOI president Tommy Morris said they are considering bringing back the World Cup to the Philippines in 2006.

Rounding out the top 10 countries were New Zealand (4 golds, 3 silvers ,1 bronze), Iran (3,5,5) Egypt (2,5,8), Kazakhstan (1,2,6), Italy (1,0,2).

No surprises in Region 8 Milo elims

TACLOBAN CITY—Edgar Lapasigue and Camila Luterte retained their respective regional titles in the 28th National Milo Marathon here yesterday.

Lapasigue clocked one hour, nine minutes and 18 seconds to claim his second straight crown in the men's division while Luterte won by more than five minutes over her closest rival in topping the women's race, also for the second time.

The 24-year-old Armyman from Catbalogan, Samar, was barely challenged in the 21-km race and vowed to use his winning prize of P10,000 in training for the National Finals.

Lapasigue placed 12th overall in the finals last year but vowed to post a more respectable finish in this year's race to be held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, adidas, Cebu Pacific, Globe Handyphone and the Department of Tourism.

Placing second was Jonathan Belmonte (1:09:43) with Gilbert Luterte, son of the reigning women's Region 8 champion, placing third in 1:10:05.

Camila Luterte, a 41-year-old resident of Baybay town, grabbed the lead going into the halfway mark and won in 1:30:33.

Second placer Riza Gocela timed 1:35:32 but suffered muscle cramps and collapsed shortly after crossing the finish line.

Third placer Annielyn Tegio (1:35:39) also barely completed the race. But she drew the loudest cheer when she fell to her knees four times in the last 30 meters before finally crawling across the finish line.

Assistant race director Robert Magpantay said fans tried to help Tegio, but she asked them to leave her alone so she wouldn't be disqualified.

The top three finishers in both divisions will represent Region 8 in the National Finals on Nov. 14 in Metro Manila.

More than 6,300 runners answered the starting gun in front of the Leyte Provincial Capitol building where Sergio Osmeña was installed President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines by Gen. Douglas MacArthur on Oct. 23, 1944.

Magpantay, Portem top Patakbong Pinoy

DENNIS Magpantay edged Julius Bucalbas by a mere second to win the men's title even as Jocelyn Portem crowned herself the fastest female runner in the Beam Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy 5-K race yesterday at Fort Bonifacio.

Magpantay clocked 17 minutes and one second to beat Bucalbas, while Portem timed 23:04 for the victory. The winners took home cash prizes and medals courtesy of Beam Toothpaste and Zest-O Juice Drinks.

Third placer Eduardo Noriega came in four seconds behind Magpantay in the race participated in by more than 1,500 runners and conducted by the Media Runners and Sports Promotions.

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City

Non-Traditional Securities and Instruments Department

IN THE MATTER OF :
DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (Registrant) : LICENSING OF ALTERNATIVE TRADING SYSTEM (ATS)

NOTICE AND ORDER

Notice is hereby given that on August 12, 2004 a sworn registration form was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES for the registration and licensing of the Marketplace for SME Receivables Purchases (M4SME-RP) as an Alternative Trading System (ATS).

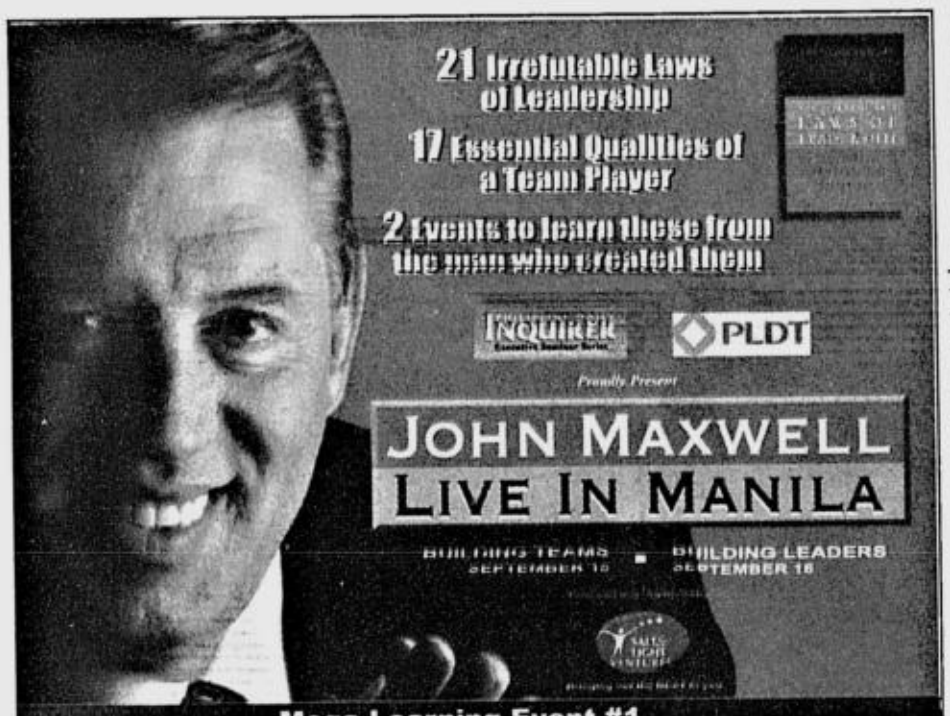
Based on the documents filed, the following persons appear to be its officers and directors:

Name	Position
VITALIANO N. NAÑAGAS II	Chairman
SIMON R. PATERNO	President/CEO
ALEXANDER R. MAGNO	Director
FERNANDO T. BARICAN	Director
FLORO F. OLIVEROS	Director
DANILO A. SONGCO	Director
ELIGIO V. JIMENEZ	Director
JAIME S. DELA ROSA	Director
RICARDO G. NEPOMUCENO, JR.	Director

SO ORDERED.
EDSA, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.
August 16, 2004.

For the Director:
MERLE JOY B. PASCUAL
Assistant Director

(PDI–Aug. 23 & 30, 2004)



Mega Learning Event #1

HIGH IMPACT TEAMS SEMINAR
Acquiring the 17 Essential Qualities of a Team Player
Be the Person Every Team Wants
Opening Session by **Francis Kong**
Araneta Coliseum, September 15, 2004, 6 PM to 9:30 PM

Regular Ticket prices at
P400 ; P600 ; ~~P800~~ ; ~~P1,000~~ ; ~~P1,500~~ ; P2,250 and P2,750

Mega Learning Event #2

THE JOHN MAXWELL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
Learning and Living the 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership
Follow Them and People Will Follow You
PICC, September 16, 2004 8:30AM to 5 PM

Regular Ticket prices at
~~P5,000~~ ; P3,500 ; ~~P6,000~~ ; P7,300 ; P8,000 ; P9,000, P10,000 ; P12,000 ; ~~P15,000~~
Fees include lunch, snacks and whole day seminar.

Tickets are available at:
AIM Alumni Association - 4F AIM Conference Center, Benavidez cor. Trasierra St., Legaspi Vill., Makati, look for Daisy Salimbagat
FOCIG - Rm. 305, Don Raul Bldg., 77 Kamuning Rd., QC., Tel. No. 920-0537, look for Amyjay Riconalla
PSTD - Suite 904 Cityland 10, Dela Costa St., Salcedo Vill., Makati, Tel. No. 813-9072, look for Serely Alcaraz
The Master's Library - 59A Xavierville Ave., Loyola Heights, QC., Tel. No. 435-4281 loc. 107, look for Joel Susara
World Teach - 3F Lazaro Lapuz Bldg., 160 Panay Ave., cor. Edsa QC., Tel. No. 925-6775, look for Carol Sarmiento
or call 737-1569 for FREE DELIVERY,
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INVITATION TO BID

The Social Security System ("SSS") is inviting interested parties to bid for the purchase of One Hundred Eighty Seven Million Eight Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety One (P187,847,891) common shares of Equitable PCI Bank, Inc., with par value of Ten Pesos (P10.00) per share (the **"EPCIB Shares"**), which shares shall be sold as a block.

Interested parties may secure copies of: (a) the Instructions to Bidders, and annexes; and (b) the Bid Forms, after registration and payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) or equivalent in US Dollars from the office of the Special Bids and Awards Committee (**"SBAC"**), 7th Floor SSS Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

All prospective bidders must submit a complete set of Pre-qualification Documents and their Bids together with the Bid Security to the SBAC Office not later than 12:00 noon of 20 October 2004.

The winning bidder who shall post a Performance Security prior to being declared as such, shall be obliged to execute a Share Purchase Agreement with the SSS within seven (7) days from the receipt of the Notice of Award. If the winning bidder refuses or fails to execute the Share Purchase Agreement, the Bid Security as well as the Performance Security shall be forfeited in favor of SSS.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality therein, or to accept such bids as may be advantageous to the SSS without giving any reason therefor.

The result of the bidding is subject to the right of BDO Capital and Investment Corporation to match the highest bid and notice is given that title to the EPCIB Shares may be affected by the final decision in pending cases described in the Instructions to Bidders involving the EPCIB shares.

For more information, please contact *Mr. Nazario S. Cabuquit, Jr.* at telephone numbers **924-7364** and **927-2337**.

Chairman
Special Bids and Awards Committee
For the Public Auction of SSS' EPCIB Shares
(PDI – August 23, 24 & 25, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites all interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the Provision of Health Maintenance Services for DOLE officials and employees with an approved budget for the contract of TEN MILLION FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (Php 10,520,000.00).

Interested bidders must register and submit registration requirements to the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Bldg., Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila starting **August 16, 2004**. Said checklist may also be secured from the same office. Deadline for registration will be on **August 30, 2004**.

Only bidders duly registered with the DOLE may be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on **August 31, 2004** at 2:00 p.m. at the DOLE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Executive Building, San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila.

Eligibility check requirements shall be distributed during the Pre-bid Conference or can be secured from the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor DOLE Bldg., Intramuros, Manila starting **September 1, 2004**.

Eligibility documents shall be submitted to the DOLE Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at the DOLE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Executive Building, San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila, on September 3, 2004 betwen 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. only in a sealed envelope marked with the title "PROVISION OF HEALTH MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR DOLE" addressed to the undersigned. Registered bidders are invited to witness the eligibility check on said date at exactly 2:00 p.m. at the same venue.

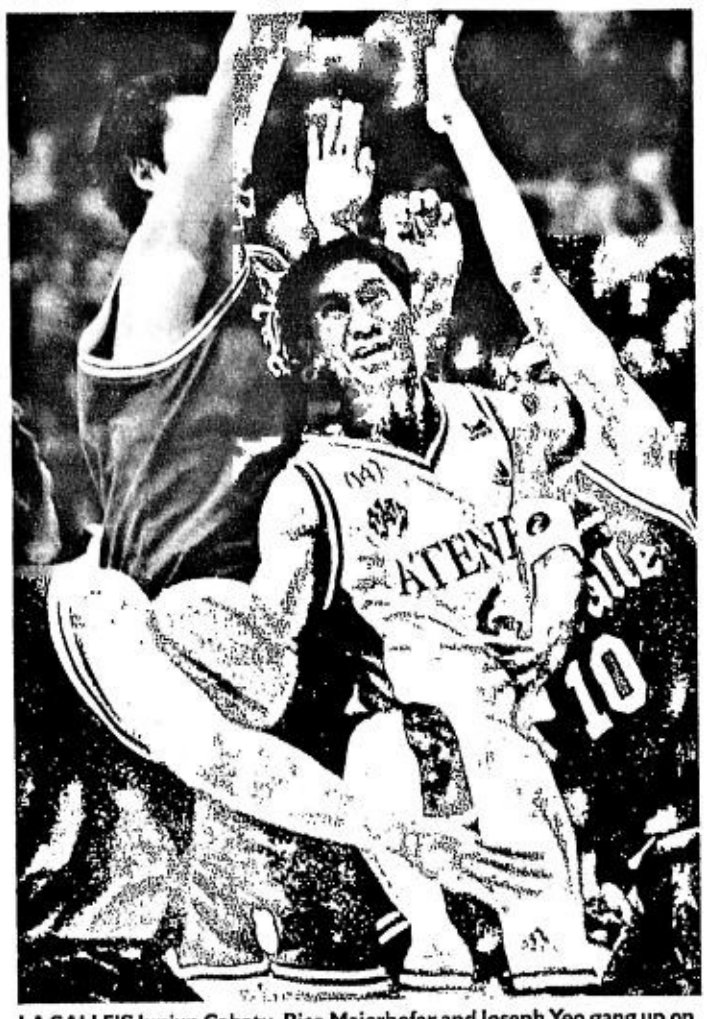
The deadline for the submission of bids will be on **September 15, 2004** at 2:00 p.m. at the DOLE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Executive Building, San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila. The PUBLIC BIDDING shall follow with the participation of eligible bidders. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested bidders are requested to present, personally or through their authorized representatives, their proposals on the date of the bidding. The DOLE reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries/information please get in touch with Ms. Lily Pearl L. Guerrero and Ms. Liberty C. Angeles, members of the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 527-3480 and 527-3583.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MA. ANTHONETTE VELASCO-ALLONES**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee and Assistant Secretary
(PDI–Aug. 13 & 23, 2004)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



LA SALLE'S Junjun Cabatu, Rico Maierhofer and Joseph Yeo gang up on a driving LA Tenorio of Ateneo in their game last night. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Payback time as fiery La Salle whips Ateneo

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE DE LA Salle Archers reminded everyone that the front-running Ateneo Eagles are by no means invincible.

The Archers rode out the Eagles' second-half rally and emerged with a vengeful 72-61 conquest of their archrivals yesterday in the 67th UAAP varsity basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

Feisty Mac Cardona, who finished with 24 points, revved up the Archers' charge early for a 17-point lead at the end of the first quarter, 26-9. La Salle compounded Ateneo's woes by closing the first half with a 14-0 attack for a 29-point bubble, 44-15.

"In the first half, that was the real La Salle team I was envisioning. We had a splendid defense and held them to a very low score," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren.

The University of the Philippines Maroons suddenly found themselves in Final Four contention after earlier clinching their fourth straight win at the expense of the Adamson Falcons, 66-55.

GAMES THURSDAY
(Philsports Arena)
11:30 a.m.—UE vs UST (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—UE vs UST (Srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson (Srs)
6 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson (Jrs)

Ateneo, which dominated the first round, found itself sharing top spot with idle Far Eastern at 8-2. La Salle took solo third at 6-4 while UP, which last won four straight games in 1997, moved up to fifth along with Adamson and Santo Tomas with 4-6 records.

Cardona scored 13 in the first half, just two points shy of Ateneo's total. It was indeed a disastrous start for the Eagles, who showed no traces of aggressiveness with 16 turnovers and a poor 26.9-percent shooting clip at halftime.

La Salle continued its onslaught for a 33-point lead early in the third period, 50-17. But the Eagles soon showed signs of life through a 19-2 run that shaved the lead to 14 points, 59-45.

The Eagles pulled within eight in the final three minutes, 69-61, but Cardona held the Archers together down the stretch.

The Maroons countered with 10 unanswered points for a 55-42 cushion at the end of the third period and the Diliman dribblers kept the Falcons at bay in the fourth quarter.

Earlier, the Junior Maroons walloped the Baby Falcons, 95-60, for their seventh win in nine games.

The scores:

Second Game (Srs)

UP 66—Santos 13, David 11, Almeda 10, Cervantes 9, Cruz 7, Ibañes 5, Ferrer 5, Epres 3, Quebral 2, Robin 1, Bienvenida 0.

ADAMSON 55—Alonzo 13, Cabahug 12, Bono 6, Poloyapoy 5, Abadia 5, Catabay 5, Canuday 3, Tajonera 2, Hate 2, Tiongco 2.

Quarters: 14-20, 35-31, 55-42, 66-55.

Third Game (Srs)

LA SALLE 72—Cardona 24, Benitez 10, Cabatu 9, Villanueva 8, Yeo 5, Tang 4, Maierhoffer 4, Gaco 4, Araña 4, Casio 0.

ATENEO 61—Intal 21, Tenorio 12, Membrere 7, Del Rosario 7, Bugia 4, Kramer 4, Tiu 2, Arao 2, Quimson 2, Aguilar 0.

Quarters: 26-9, 44-15, 59-45, 72-61.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY,
METRO MANILA
IN RE: PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS A DOMESTIC AIRFREIGHT FORWARDER
CAB Case No. EP-24970
CTSI LOGISTICS PHILS., INC.,
Petitioners.
x----------x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, Notice is hereby given that CTSI LOGISTICS PHILS., INC. has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board a petition for authority to operate as a domestic airfreight forwarder. The hearing on the above-entitled case is scheduled on 03 September 2004 at 10:00 AM at the CAB Conference Room, Old MIA Road, Pasay City before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which proceeding the applicant shall present the relevant evidence.

Under Section 16 of R.A. 776, the applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation or have copies thereof and the application sent to all domestic airfreight forwarder, either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at least five (5) days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of this application must file their written opposition on or before the date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file their opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide the application on its merits.

Let a copy of the petition and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today
12 August 2004
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) KATHERINE M. LEGARDA
Hearing Officer

Copy furnished
Ms. Aurora G. Yambot
Division Manager
CTSI Logistics Phils., Inc.
Unit ABC Columbia Airfreight

(PDI--Aug 16, 23 & 30, 2004)

Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(Norsamelco)
Magsaysay Bobon N. Samar

INVITATION TO BID

NORSAMELCO invites interested bidders to bid for supply and delivery of wood poles, transformers, conductors and various line hardware intended for construction of distribution line under NEA subsidy projects.

1) Treated Wood Pole CCA (Radiata Pines)/Concrete Poles
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   b. 35ft / class 4 — 44 pcs
2) Cross arm wood 3-1/2x4-1/2x8 — 114 pcs
3) Conductors Bare ACSR no. 2 — 15,000 mtrs
   Conductors Bare ACSR no. 1/0 — 19,000 mtrs
4) Transformer, double bushing, 13.2/7.62kv / 240v with H.V. tap changer, brand new
   a. 25kva — 4 unit
   b. 15kva — 3 unit
5) Various pole line hardware, Hot Dip Galvanized

Interested bidders are required to submit letter of intent with latest company profile before securing bid forms. Bid forms can be purchased after the payment of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P 1,500.00) non-refundable. Pre-bid conference is schedule on August 30, 2004 at 10:00 am. Opening of bid is on the other day. All bidders are required to submit bid bond amounting to 5% of the total bid price. Only accredited suppliers of NORSAMELCO are allowed to bid.

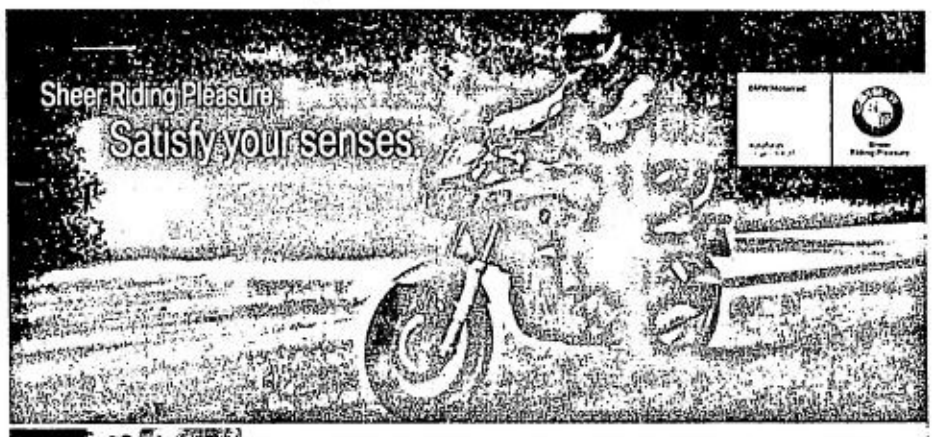
NORSAMELCO PBAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders with reason from doing so. NORSAMELCO PBAC assumes no obligation to neither compensate or indemnify bids nor deem it guarantee that the award will be made.

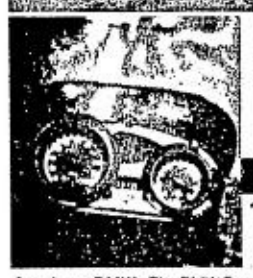
NORSAMELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids duly received, waive any minor defect in the proposal, accept the offer that will be evaluated to be the most advantageous to coop.

(Sgd.) HENRY C. BANJAWAN
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:
(Sgd.) NILO ESTOPA
Mgt Team Leader

(PDI--Aug. 23, 2004)





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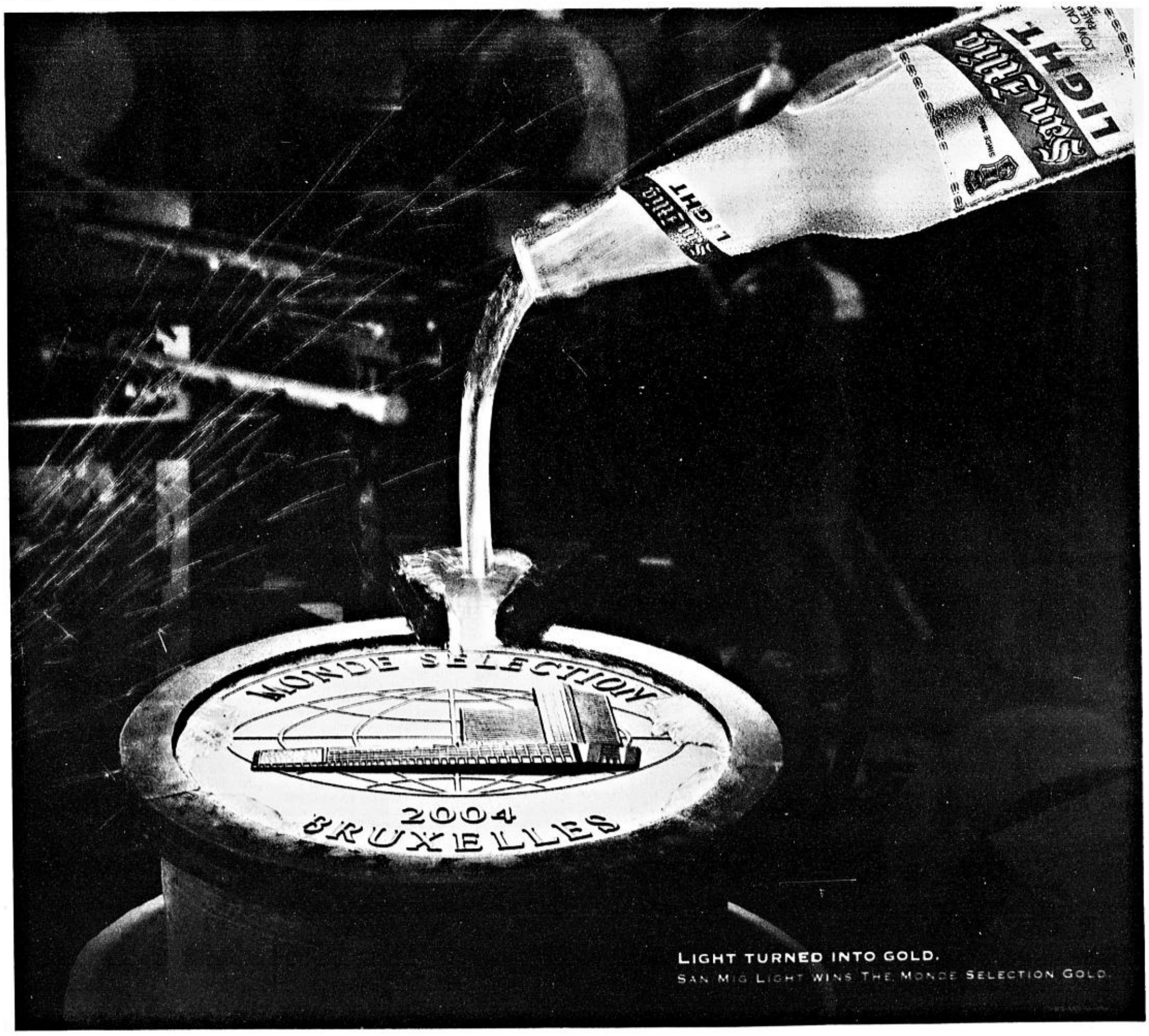

Cink stays five strokes clear of Woods, two others

AKRON, Ohio—Stewart Cink moved onto the verge of his fourth career title after shooting a two-under-par 68 for a five-shot lead after the third round of the $7 million WGC-NEC Invitational on Saturday.

Cink, shooting his second consecutive 68, made a 50-foot chip shot on the final hole for a three-round total of 199 to stay well clear of Tiger Woods, Chris DiMarco and David Toms, who are tied at six-under-par.

Scott Verplank, Australian Rod Pampling and South Africa's Rory Sabbatini are tied for fifth place a further shot behind.

Britain's Luke Donald, hoping for a European Ryder Cup berth, carded a five-under-par 65 to move to four under with Jerry Kelly, Angel Cabrera of Argentina and Charles Howell III.

Cink had completed his rain-delayed second round earlier in the day and was three shots clear of Woods and Sabbatini heading into the third at the Firestone Country Club.

Woods looks certain to keep his world number one ranking with main rivals Vijay Singh of Fiji and South African Ernie Els way off the pace on three over and 11 over respectively.

The 31-year-old Cink continued to show his dominance over the field using the weapon he has used most effectively this year—his putter.

The No. 1 ranked putter on the PGA Tour has not three putted this week and in the third round he needed only 25 putts to move further clear from the field.

"I've been trying to stay with my basic routine on my putts, and that's just keeping it simple and not really worrying about the results too much," Cink said.

"I know that I'm going to miss putts. It happens. Everybody does it.

"The difference between now as opposed to in years past is I'm totally prepared to accept any missed putts or mistakes I'm going to make out there, so it's really helping me stay relaxed." Cink started the day on the 11th green of his second round due to the poor weather which suspended play on both Thursday and Friday.

When he returned on Saturday morning he was looking at a 25 foot putt for birdie on the 11th hole, and his successful conversion would be one of five birdies he would make against only two bogeys.

However, the most dramatic shot for Cink was the 50 foot chip on the 18th hole that extended a lead that was only two shots when he stood on the 17th tee.

"It was exciting, and it's nice to finish off with a birdie, but there's still a lot in front of me," Cink said.

"I've been around the Tour eight years now and I've played a lot out here, and I know that anything can happen in 18 holes.

I'm definitely not counting my chickens yet."

Woods is within striking distance, but at five shots back will need to play like the Tiger of old and possibly need Cink to falter a little.

The world No. 1 believes it is possible to win if he plays like he did over the final seven holes of his second round, which he completed in the morning with three birdies and no bogies.

"That's all I have to do," Woods said. "I know it's in there, it's just a matter of bringing it out just like I did this morning, just hit the same shots and make putts." *Reuters*

Americans lose again in Athens

Lithuania drops US five; Spain still hot

ATHENS, Greece—The unthinkable has happened to America's Olympic basketball team. Twice.

Sarunas Jasikevicius, the Lithuanian guard whose off-target three-pointer kept his team from pulling off the biggest upset of the Sydney Games, didn't miss when it counted Saturday night against the Americans in a 94-90 victory.

He hit three in a row from behind the arc as the fourth quarter wound down, including a rare four-point play that put his team ahead to stay. He finished with 28 points.

The loss was the second of the Athens Games for the Americans—they lost last Sunday to Puerto Rico—matching their total from the country's first 68 years of Olympic competition.

But the US team still can make it to the quarterfinals with a victory over Angola on Monday.

Earlier Saturday, Spain clinched first place in its group. But Serbia-Montenegro, the world champions, will have to wait a few more days to see if it also advances to the medal round.

Spain beat Serbia, 76-68, Saturday, dropping the losers to 1-3 and putting them in a must-win situation against China in its final preliminary round game Monday as well as have some other results go their way.

The Spaniards play New Zealand in their final game but even a loss Monday won't keep them from winning Group A.

In other games Saturday, Puerto Rico beat Australia, 87-82, Argentina defeated New Zealand, 98-94, Italy beat China, 89-52, and Greece defeated Angola, 88-56.

"Winning has been great," Spain guard Juan Carlos Navarro said.

Pau Gasol, who plays for the Memphis Grizzlies, had all 14 of his points in the second half of the very physical game that featured a couple of confrontations after hard fouls. *AP*

LITHUANIA'S Saulius Stombergas (center) drives through Tim Duncan (left) and Lamar Odom of the US. Lithuania handed the US its second loss in the Olympics, 94-90. REUTERS

World No. 1 bags tennis gold medal

ATHENS—Women's world No. 1 Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium completed a remarkable comeback from illness when she won the women's singles gold medal at the Olympic tennis tournament Saturday beating second seed Amelie Mauresmo of France, 6-3, 6-3.

She broke Mauresmo twice in each set to wrap up the win in one hour and 15 minutes. The Frenchwoman never had a break point.

Nicolas Massu and Fernando Gonzalez gave Chile its first gold at an Olympic Games in a five-set tennis marathon that ended Sunday morning.

The Chileans outlasted Germany's Nicolas Kiefer and Rainer Schuettler, 6-2, 4-6, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4, after three hours and 43 minutes on court.

The 22-year-old Henin-Hardenne has spent most of the year battling a debilitating virus and had played just two matches in four months before coming to Athens where she has now played six matches in a week.

That included a three-hour epic against French Open champion Anastasia Myskina of Russia on Friday night when she fought back to win after trailing, 5-1, in the final set.

Henin-Hardenne won the French Open and US Open in 2003 and the Australian Open at the start of this year, but she didn't play for six weeks prior to this year's French Open because of the virus, similar to glandular fever, which left the normally hyperactive Belgian wanting to sleep all the time.

And at the French Open at the end of May she was surprisingly beaten in the second round by Tathiana Garbin of Italy.

In her last match before Roland Garros she was beaten by Mauresmo at Amelia Island, Florida. *AFP*

Boxing gets it on the chin

From page A25

"Onyok" Velasco in the 1996 Atlanta Games, no boxer has come close to winning a medal. Not in Sydney in 2000 and certainly not in Athens.

Of the four Filipino boxers who qualified for the Olympics, two—middleweight Christopher Camat and flyweight Violito Payla—failed to get past the first round. The two others—light welter Romeo Brin and light fly Tañamor— reached the second round and lost there.

While he had a few things to say about the officiating in Athens, Lopez conceded changes were necessary to get the country's amateur boxing program back on track.

"We've been looking for the right formula," he said. "Obviously, what happened last night was not good."

Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, commented after Tañamor's loss Saturday night that Philippine boxing needed some significant changes in strategy if it has to win medals in the Olympics.

"They'll have to make some radical changes and difficult decisions," he said. He suggested the possibility of hiring foreign coaches.

"For combat sports like boxing ... having a foreign coach is always an advantage," he said. "But that's a decision they will have to make. They know the sport better than we do."

"It's sad that we lost a chance to win a medal in boxing in the last two Olympics, but there's always a chance for a comeback.

He recalled that from 1964, when Anthony Villanueva won a boxing silver medal in Tokyo, to 1988, when Leopoldo Serantes won a bronze in Seoul, the Philippines was shut out of the medals in boxing.

But from 1988 when the Lopez father-and-son team took over amateur boxing in the Philippines, "we've been winning medals." Roel Velasco also won a bronze in Barcelona in 1992 before Onyok Velasco duplicated Villanueva's silver in Atlanta in 1996.

Of the nine medals won by the Philippines since joining the Olympic movement in Paris in 1924, boxers have won five, counting the bronze by Jose "Cely" Villanueva in 1932 in Los Angeles.

While acknowledging Dayrit's suggestion that changes were necessary in the Abap's program, the younger Lopez said he believed boxing officials were not wanting in their preparation and technique.

"That's his opinion," Lopez said of Dayrit's observation. "He has to be more specific. When it comes to style, maybe he has a point. But as far as technique is concerned, hindi *tayo nagkulang* (we were not wanting)."

"Maybe we were deficient in refinement. We need a little adjustment," Lopez said.

The four boxers were probably the most prepared of the 16 athletes who came to Athens. They traveled to international competitions where they were exposed to the best in the world. In the final two months of their preparation, the Filipinos pitched camp in different boxing training venues in France and Hungary.

By the time they came for the weigh-in for the Olympics, they were well within their limits.

Lopez said he was quite puzzled at the way the judges scored the fights.

In earlier bouts, points were scored for body blows. But when Tañamor started raining blows on the Korean's body, the judges became stingy.

"They were not consistent. That's why we are getting a lot of protests," said Lopez, who is serving in the jury of appeals for the Olympics. As jury member, he was unable to attend to the Philippine boxing team, leaving the chore to his father, whom he succeeded as Abap president.

AMERICAN Jonathan Tiomkin (right) leaps to attack Russian Renal Ganeev in the semifinals of the men's team foil in the Athens Olympics. AFP

Sponsors keep the Olympics going

ONE reason the Olympic Games enjoys widespread popularity is because of the valuable support provided by both individual and corporate sponsors.

"Olympic sponsors are the engine that drives these Games," said an International Olympic Committee official. "It would be impossible to imagine an Olympics without them."

Looking back at history, even in the Games of Antiquity, wealthy individuals had supported the Olympics, bankrolling the training of athletes and supplying them with the needed equipment like chariots and horses.

When the modern Olympics was revived by French nobleman Baron Pierre de Coubertin in 1896 in Athens, Greek businessman George Averoff paid for the refurbishment of the Olympic Stadium. Because of his generosity, a statue was built in his honor as a benefactor of the Games.

Inevitably, the number of Olympic supporters increased over the years, leading to the advent of commercialization in the Olympic movement. This commercialization hit a milestone in 1924 at the Paris Games where venue advertising was permitted for the first—and last time. The Olympic Games is unique in this respect. Olympic venues are kept free of advertising unlike other sporting events in the world today.

Sponsorships are limited and carefully chosen to prevent sponsors from misleading the public into believing that they are helping the athletes or guests. Athletes need protection from relationships which may affect their health, performance and development or which may affect the integrity of tournaments in which they compete. By the way, the revenues generated by the IOC are redistributed to the Organizing Committees of the Olympic Games, the international sports federations whose sports are on the Olympic program and the national Olympic committees, in our case the Philippine Olympic Committee, which participate in the Games.

And while on the subject of Olympic revenues, one of the most profitable Olympics in modern times was the 1984 Los Angeles Games. With corporate

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

wizard Peter Ueberroth at the helm, the LA organizing committee checked past commercial clutter with a well-executed corporate program of sponsor, supplier and licensee categories each with distinct rights and exclusivity. This marketing strategy stood in stark contrast to previous Olympics which had been commercially cluttered and, in some cases, financially disastrous to the host city.

LA's huge financial success was, in many ways, achieved by reducing the number of corporate sponsors from an unwieldy 628 at the Montreal Olympics in 1976 to a manageable 34 official sponsors, 64 suppliers and 65 licensees. Less, giving more, was the slogan that became the prime mover of the LA Games, "the turning point of the Olympic movement" in the words of then IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch. "The financial triumph of the LA Games represented the development of a structured partnership between commerce and sport," Samaranch added.

In hosting a financially successful Games, LA showed to the world that the time was right for Olympic sponsorship to have a broader scope. It was also the time when several multinational companies showed interest in sponsoring sports on an international basis.

So, in 1985, the IOC launched the worldwide sponsorship program called The Olympic Program (TOP), which combined sponsorship of all National Olympic Committees and the Olympic Games in one global package.

Before TOP, sponsorship was organized on an ad hoc basis and most revenues went to the Organizing Committees of the Olympic Games (Ocogs) and the National Olympic Committees of the host country. The new system introduced distribution of sponsorship revenues throughout the Olympic family. Now all NOCs benefit from the TOP program.

One vital factor in making the Olympics financially stable has been the growth of television coverage and the related TV broadcast right fees. Television is the medium through which the world sees and experiences the Olympics. In fact, more than four billion people around the world saw the recent opening ceremonies of this year's Athens Olympics. The IOC earns billions from TV rights alone. NBC paid $3.55 billion for the rights to five Summer and Winter Olympics for the years 2000 to 2008. Fees for TV rights were first negotiated as far back as the London Games in 1948. But, it was not until the Olympics became truly global in Tokyo in 1964, with the first satellite link-up, that TV rights contracts evolved into a major source of funding for the IOC. As a matter of policy, the IOC awards the TV and broadcast rights to those offering the greatest audience, free of charge, rather than the largest check.

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Phelps makes Olympic history

THE NETHERLANDS' Inge de Bruijn cuts her way to the 50 freestyle gold. AFP

US swim sensation does it without hitting the pool

ATHENS, Greece—Michael Phelps made Olympic history without getting in the pool.

Phelps earned his eighth medal of the Athens Games when the United States set a world record in the 400-meter medley relay Saturday night. He didn't take part in the final, but will receive gold since he swam in the preliminaries.

Phelps earned a spot in the medley final by beating teammate Ian Crocker in the 100 butterfly Friday night, but gave it up so Crocker could get his first gold medal of the Athens Games.

"It felt like I was part of that race," said Phelps at poolside. "I can't tell you about how exciting it is to be on the other side of the sport."

The United States has never lost an Olympic medley relay, and it didn't really matter who swam the fly—Phelps or Crocker. The Americans dominated the race, setting a world record of 3 minutes, 30.68 seconds, nearly three seconds ahead of runner-up Germany. Japan won the bronze, its first medal in the event since 1960.

When the scoreboard flashed "WR"—world record—Phelps threw up his arms to celebrate and exchanged high-fives with his teammates.

The 31-year-old Jenny Thompson got a silver in the women's 400 medley relay for the 12th medal of her career—the most by any American Olympian. She had been tied with swimmer Mark Spitz and Matt Biondi and shooter Carl Osburn.

Thompson, who inherited a lead in the relay, couldn't hold on. Petria Thomas was more than two seconds faster than the American, giving Australia a half-second lead, and Kara Lynn Joyce had no chance of catching world-record holder Jodie Henry in the freestyle.

The Australians, who also used Giaan Rooney and Leisel Jones, took the gold with a world record of 3:57.32, breaking the mark of 3:58.30 set by the United States at the 2000 Sydney Games. This time, the Americans settled for silver in 3:59.12, with Germany taking the bronze.

Six of Phelps' medals were gold, one short of Spitz's 1972 haul in Munich.

In other races on the final night of swimming, Inge de Bruijn of the Netherlands defended her title in the 50 freestyle with her first gold of the Athens Games.

De Bruijn's time of 24.58 seconds was 26-hundredths of a second slower than her winning time at the Sydney Games. Malia Metella of France earned silver in 24.89 and Lisbeth Lenton of Australia took bronze in 24.91.

De Bruijn, who turns 31 on Tuesday, became the first woman to win consecutive sprint titles since the event was added to the Olympic program in 1988.

"This is just the best birthday present I could hope for. A gold in the last day of the program—what a climax," said de Bruijn, who also won a silver and two bronzes at these games. "It's an amazing feeling."

Another Olympic title was also successfully defended. Grant Hackett won his second straight 1,500 freestyle, continuing Australia's domination of the longest race in swimming.

Hackett won gold in 14:43.40—nearly five seconds faster than his winning time at the Sydney Games. He became the fifth man in Olympic history to win two titles in the 1,500. Fellow Aussie Kieren Perkins won in 1992 and '96, then was beaten by Hackett four years ago in Sydney.

He got a strong challenge from American Larsen Jensen, who earned the silver in 14:45.29—lowering his own American record by more than 11 1-2 seconds. David Davies of Britain claimed bronze in 14:45.95. *AP*

Heavyweight Hackett, de Bruijn not yet done

ATHENS, Greece—The 1,500-meter freestyle is swimming's heavyweight division. And Grant Hackett is the undisputed champion.

The Australian retained his Olympic title on the final night of swimming events in Athens.

Afterward, Hackett, whose thick torso and shaved head resembles some of boxing's bigger champions, got up the starting block and flexed his muscles to demonstrate his dominance.

Hackett is undefeated in his favorite event since 1997. Since then, he has put together a list of victories that would make for an imposing introduction if swim meets were preceded by boxing match-like theatrics.

He now has two Olympic golds, three World Championship wins, three world short-course titles, two Commonwealth Games victories and three firsts at the Pan Pacific Games.

The 220-pounder, who holds the world record of 14 minutes, 34.56 seconds, was the fifth man in Olympic history to win the 1,500 twice.

"It was a real tough race tonight, but I prepared so well," Hackett said, adding: "I still haven't got the best out of myself in the Olympic games."

At the 2008 games in China, Hackett will be going for an unprecedented third title.

Meanwhile, Inge de Bruijn is not going the way of Alexander Popov. Not yet at least.

The Dutch sprinter defended her Olympic title in the 50-m freestyle Saturday with her first gold of the Athens Games.

De Bruijn, who turns 31 on Tuesday, became the first woman to win consecutive sprint titles since the event was added to the Olympic program in 1988. Earlier, she won silver in the 100 free, and bronze in the 100 butterfly and 400 free relay.

The 32-year-old Popov, who became the first man to win consecutive 50 free titles in 1992 and 1996, left Athens without a medal. *AP*

Nesterenko is new queen of sprints

TRACK and field's golden girls Yuliya Nesterenko of Belarus (above) and Sweden's Carolina Kluft, drape themselves in their national colors after ruling the 100-m dash and heptathlon respectively.

ATHENS, Greece—Yuliya Nesterenko of Belarus surged ahead at the finish to capture the Olympic gold medal in the 100-meter dash, nipping Lauryn Williams of the United States and breaking a 20-year-old American stranglehold on the title.

Nesterenko clocked 10.93 seconds, narrowly beating Williams, who timed 10.96. The bronze went to Veronica Campbell of Jamaica in 10.97.

"I came as a big surprise for the outside world, but I was well prepared and I only prepared for the 100," she said.

Ivet Lalova of Bulgaria, the fastest this year at 10.77, had a blazing start and appeared to be in the lead early before finishing fourth in 11.00.

Before the final, Nesterenko was the only sprinter who also went under 11 seconds in all three heats, although she had never done it before the Olympics.

She was trailing in the final but pulled away in the last 10 m and dipped forward to clinch the gold.

Christine Arron of France, unbeaten in 11 races this year and one of the favorites, failed to make the final, finishing a distant sixth in her semifinal heat.

Neither of the two veterans made it either. Gail Devers, 37, was seventh behind Arron in the first heat and Merlene Ottey, the 44-year-old former Jamaican now running for Slovenia, just missed the final, finishing fifth in the second heat in her seventh and most likely final Olympics.

Arron clocked 11.21, widely off her European record of 10.72, with Devers right behind at 11.22. Devers won this event at the 1992 and 1996 games but now mostly runs hurdles.

Carolina Kluft added the Olympic gold medal to her heptathlon world title with an overwhelming victory in the grueling two-day event.

The Swede collected 6,952 points, narrowly missing the 7,000 barrier.

Austra Skujyte of Lithuania earned the silver medal at 6,435, and Kelly Sotherton of Britain took the bronze at 6,424.

"I never think of winning or scoring a certain amount of points. I'm there to have fun," Kluft said.

The only heptathlete to break the 7,000 mark in the Olympics was Jackie Joyner-Kersee, who did it in 1988 in Seoul and in 1992 in Barcelona. Joyner-Kersee's world record is 7,291, set in Seoul. *AP*

World 100 record under siege

ATHENS—A series of unusually quick times in the men's 100-meter heats have sparked expectations of a possible world record in Sunday's Olympic final.

"It's a very fast track, we're going to have a party tomorrow," defending champion Maurice Greene said after Saturday's second round.

Greene won his heat in 9.93 seconds, an impressive time. But Asafa Powell, the young Jamaican student who has beaten him twice in successive races this year, appeared to concede the race after drawing level with the American at 70 m.

Powell looked to his left as if to confirm he had Greene's measure, then eased up to let Greene win.

Francis Obikwelu slowed even more dramatically in the first of the five heats after setting a scorching pace. Victory confirmed, the Nigerian-born Portuguese simply stopped sprinting and jogged across the line in 9.93.

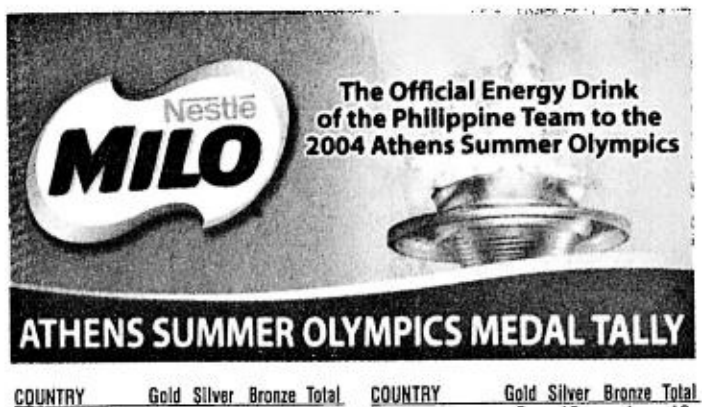
The unpredictable Shawn Crawford emphasized just how fast the track was on a hot, still evening by clocking 9.89 in the second heat without ever giving the impression he was trying very hard.

American Justin Gatlin also went under 10 seconds, clocking 9.96.

"I think being the younger of the three, I want to show the young guns can do it, too," Gatlin said.

Greene, who wants the second title he believes will confirm he is the greatest of all time, was dismissive of the times.

"I haven't won anything. Nothing matters what we did today, or last week. It matters what you do tomorrow," he said. *Reuters*



ATHENS SUMMER OLYMPICS MEDAL TALLY

COUNTRY	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States	20	16	12	48
China	18	13	10	41
Japan	12	5	5	22
Australia	11	7	11	29
Germany	10	9	11	30
Russia	7	13	14	34
France	6	8	7	21
Italy	6	6	6	18
Ukraine	6	2	5	13

COUNTRY	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Korea	5	10	4	19
Great Britain	5	7	7	19
Romania	5	0	2	7
Netherlands	3	6	7	16
Greece	3	1	3	7
Turkey	3	0	1	4
Belarus	2	3	5	10
Hungary	2	3	1	6
Poland	2	2	3	7

9-11 hero ends 40-year gold drought

ATHENS—The United States, with Sept. 11 hero Jason Read on board, brought the curtain down on the Olympic Games rowing regatta on Sunday by winning its first men's eights gold medal for the first time since 1964.

America won in a time of 5 minutes and 42.44 seconds ahead of the Netherlands with Australia taking bronze while Canada, the double world champions, crept home in a disappointing fifth place.

Read, a New Jersey fire chief who toiled in the wreckage and the carnage of the ruins of the World Trade Center, had set his sights on winning gold and he duly delivered with teammates Chris Ahrens, Wyatt Allen, Daniel Beery, Pete Cipollone, Matt Deakin, Joseph Hansen, Beau Hoopman and Bryan Volpenhein.

"It's the first gold medal for the United States for 40 years in this event and we are very excited. It's amazing," said Read.

"It was a very difficult race with very good opponents. We went for it and we did it."

America dominated from the start opening up a length's lead by the 1500-meter mark and held on to take a convincing win despite late pressure from the Dutch who took silver in a time of 5:43.75.

Meanwhile, reigning world champion Denmark took gold in the men's lightweight four in a time of 6:01:39 with Australia winning silver, their same result in Sydney four years ago, with Italy taking bronze.

The women's lightweight double sculls went to Romania for the third successive Games with Constanta Burcica and Angela Alupei pushing the German and Netherlands pairs into the silver and bronze medal places. Burcica and Alupei defended the title they won in Sydney while Burcica also won in Atlanta in 1996 with Camelia Macoviciuc.

German world champions Daniela Reimer and Claudia Blasberg were second with Kirsten van der Kolk and Marit van Eupen of the Netherlands taking bronze.

Tomasz Kucharski and Robert Sycz of Poland won the men's lightweight double sculls with Frederic Dufour and Pascal Touron of France winning silver and the bronze going to Vasileios Polymeros and Nikolaos Skiathitis of Greece. *AFP*

Cover Girl strolls through Lakambini

By Edwin Villanueva
Contributor

BRING on Empire King.

Cover Girl threw that challenge yesterday after walloping her rivals in the Philracom Lakambini Stakes race at the Santa Ana Park.

Without her chief rival in the recent Triple Crown series, Cover Girl had an easy time storming to a three-length victory in the 1,800-meter event among five 3-year-old fillies.

Star jockey Jonathan Hernandez put Cover Girl within range of early leader Moab before blasting in front at the far turn on the way to a win worth P450,000 for the C&H Enterprises.

Moab stayed tough to salvage second, beating Cool Runnings by half a length. I Love This Game came in fourth while Elite brought up the rear.

"She really ran with gusto," Hernandez said in Filipino of the bay filly sired by Khozaam out of Gallant Native.

What made Cover Girl's triumph easier was the fact that Empire King, who beat her by a mere nose in the Ongpin Cup, was not in the race.

Their next collision will take place on Aug. 29 during the 26th Founders' Cup race at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

"*Inaabangan ko yung muli nilang laban kasi alam ko magandang karera yan* (I'm looking forward to their next meeting because I know that would be a good race)," added Hernandez.

Cover Girl, who negotiated the seldom-fought distance in 1:53 flat (13.5-23-25.5-24-28), won the Cojuangco Cup (first leg) and then placed only fourth in the Horseman's Cup (third leg) which Empire King ruled.

It was the 12th win in 17 runs thus far for Cover Girl, who also had an impressive victory in a class division race last Aug. 8.

Moab, the Hermie Esguerra Stable entry named after the US military's biggest bomb called the "Mother of All Bombs," settled for P168,750 under Jeffrey Bacaycay. Cool Runnings of the Trillana Stable got P93,750, while Paolo Mendoza's I Love This Game received P37,500.

MARHO chief Putch Puyat (third from right) receives a trophy from Edwin Villanueva, president of the newly formed Writers of Horseracing in the Philippines, after Cutting Edge won the inaugural WHIP Cup at the Santa Ana Park. Also shown (from left) are Jonathan Balani, Dennis Iñigo, Howie Basilio, Philracom chair Jimmy Dilar, Philracom executive director/commissioner Eddie Jose and Fer Taboy.

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ATHENS MMS UPDATES

IAN'S A SPLASH!

SWIMMING sensation Ian Thorpe almost didn't make it to the Games in his top event, the 400 meters...

MR. YAO IS A WOW!

CHINA'S top basketball star, Yao Ming, has made an immediate impact in their preliminary match...

ROGER AND OUT

THE hot favourite for the men's singles gold, world number one Roger Federer, has gone out...

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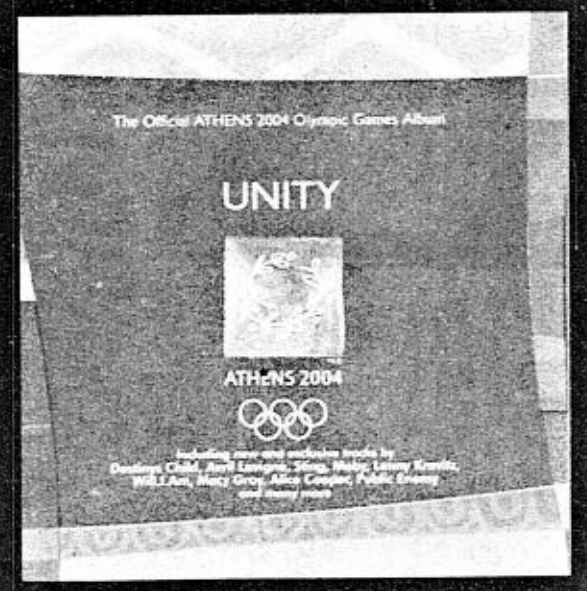

OLYMPIC TONES

SONG TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
Pass the Flame The Official Torch Relay Theme	Trevor Horn, Yiannis Kotsiras and Tarkan	passtheflame
A Thousand Years	Sting and Mariza	thousandyrs
Eyes On the Prize	Wayne Wonder and Neneh Cherry	eyesondprize
We Want Peace	Lenny Kravitz and Kadim Al Sahir	wewantpeace
Still Standing	Brian Eno, Skin, Rachid Taha	stillstanding

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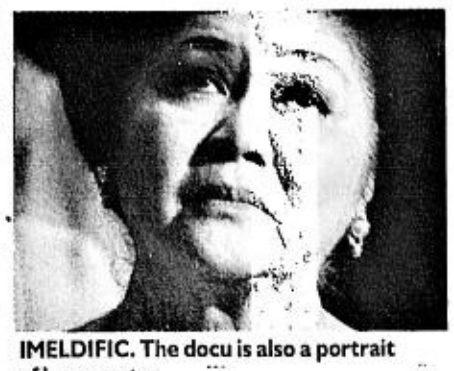


IMELDIFIC. The docu is also a portrait of her country.

Imelda documentary 'fascinating,' says LA Times /A34

The driver's son who wants to be a superstar /A36

No boycott, says 'Boss' Vic

By Nini Valera

"A BOYCOTT should not be the next step," said Viva Films' Vic del Rosario, who has been vocal about the inclusion of four movies that are all said to be produced by Regal Entertainment, in December's Metro Manila Film Festival.

WHAT PULLOUT? Del Rosario

Del Rosario denied talk of a producers' boycott of the festival even as the executive committee of the film fest has yet to arrive at a decision to act on the complaints about the four movies.

"I don't think Orly (Ilacad, whose Canary Films and Octo-Arts Films have an entry each), will pull out," said Del Rosario on Friday. "I will not pull out simply because it might hurt the industry if there is no film festival this year. One of the beneficiaries of the film fest is our antipiracy drive. So why will I do something to the detriment of a body that benefits me?

All waiting

"The next move," Del Rosario added, is on Mother Lily's part. "She's holding the ball. She must pull out two of her entries to give way to the other producers. We're all waiting for her to make her move."

He is referring to Regal matriarch Lily Monteverde who, however, has kept her silence despite the attacks from Del Rosario and other producers. Monteverde has also refused to go on record about the issue in INQUIRER Entertainment.

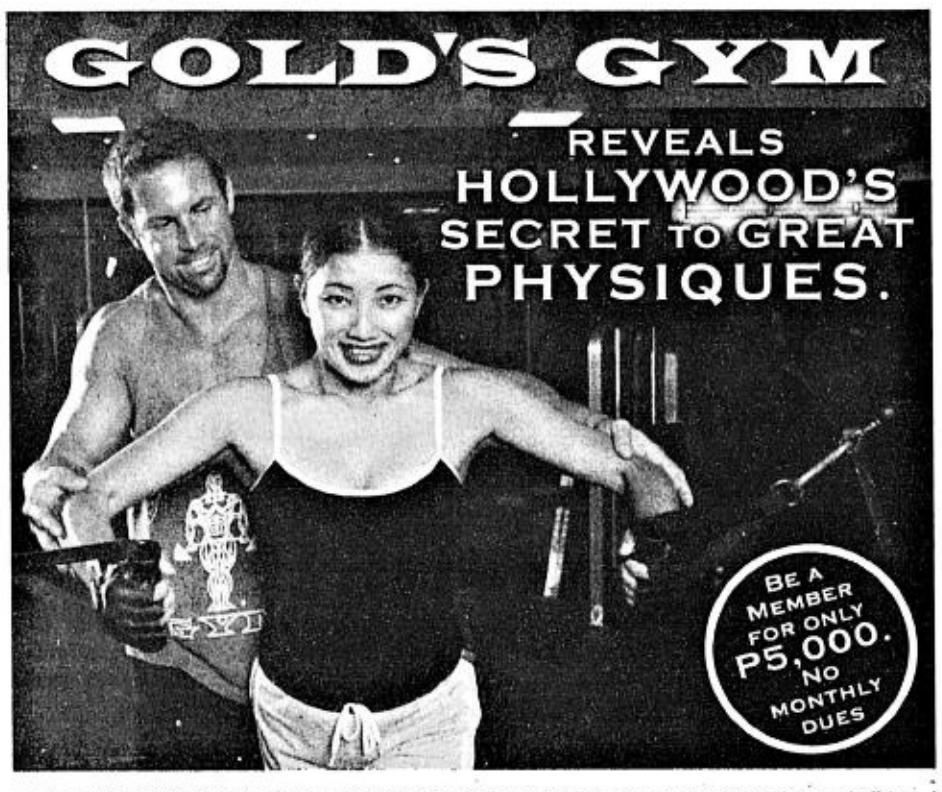
The executive committee of the December film festival apparently has not reached a decision on the complaint that four of the film fest finalists were produced by Monteverde.

The committee, chaired by Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, met last Thursday to discuss the issue, but failed to decide on it.

Thursday was Monteverde's 63rd birthday.

Fernando was not in the meeting, INQUIRER Entertainment learned. His assistant at

NO BOYCOTT/ A36



GOLD'S GYM, VENICE, CA, USA - Ever wonder how movie stars get their "Hollywood" physique? Ever wonder if that six-pack is special effects or real muscle tone? For the first time ever, the people behind Hollywood's big biceps and trim waistlines, reveal the secrets of what it takes to get in shape for the big screen. Top celebrity trainers from Gold's Gym, home to Hollywood's biggest stars, give us a "sneak peek" of Hollywood's latest fitness trends and how these can work for you. Gold's Gym's Achieving Balance trainer Mike Ryan, who has worked with Mark Wahlberg and The Rock, says it's all about balance: A healthy combination of cardio exercises, resistance training and diet. Ryan prefers that his clients workout for at least 40 minutes with 20-minute focus on cardio and a 20-minute resistance training session each day, or at the very least 3 to 4 times a week. "If you don't have the time for 40 minutes of exercise a day, do your best to do whatever you can. Every little bit helps.", says Ryan.

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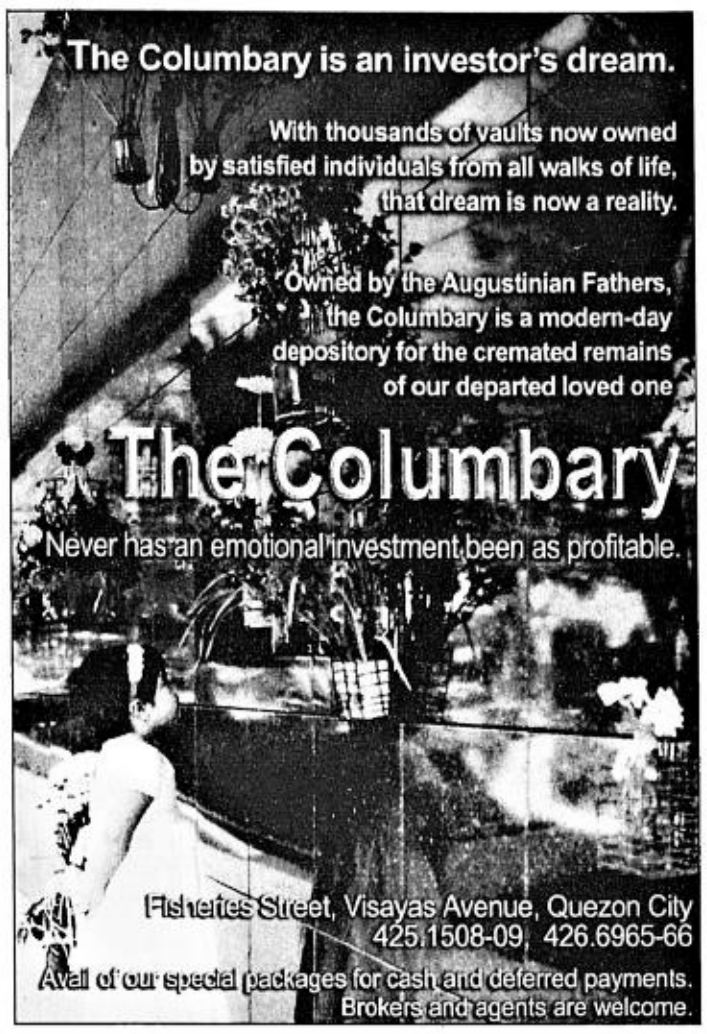

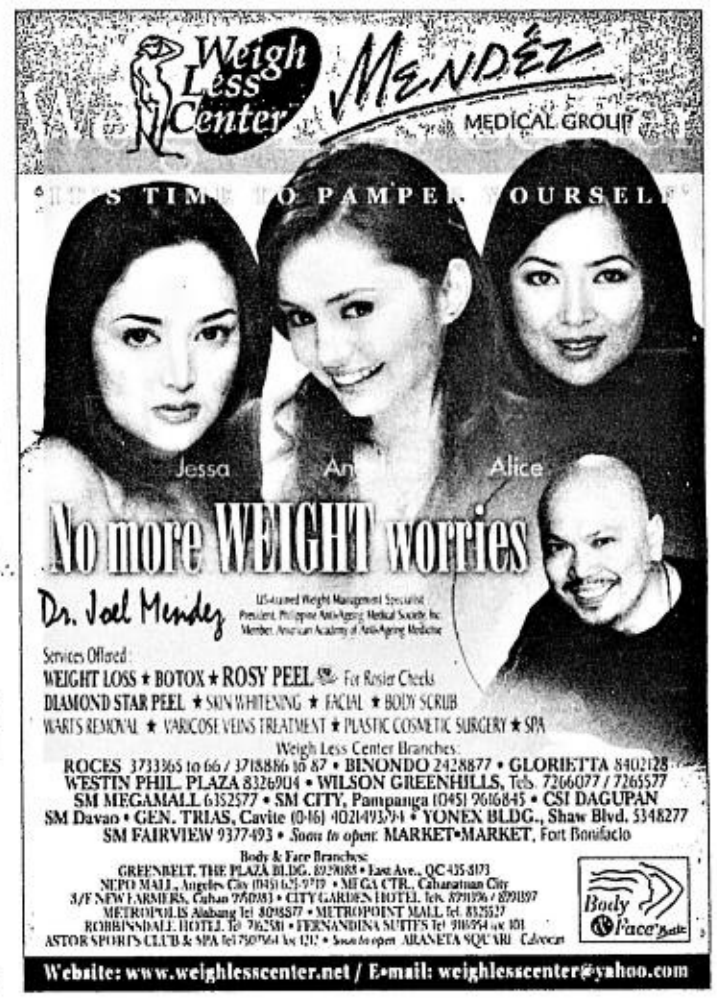

DID YOU KNOW...

Singer and former Manila restaurateur **Bert Nievera** has been seen playing at the high-stakes tables of the Venetian in Las Vegas. Bert is said to play almost every day for as long as eight hours at a time, and enjoys the perks that the hotel-casino gives its high rollers. Bert has also been seen playing golf. He and wife **Carol** were running the Philippine franchises of the Country Waffle restaurant when they suddenly left the country Christmas Eve last year, leaving creditors and the chain's investors holding an empty bag.

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Imelda documentary 'maddeningly fascinating,'

LA Times, other papers give good reviews

"IMELDA is given enough rope to hang herself," says the LA Times.

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Continuing its acclaimed streak, "Imelda," Ramona Diaz's documentary on Imelda Marcos, opened Friday in Los Angeles to good reviews.

"It's been overwhelming," Diaz told the INQUIRER on the phone as she prepared for a four-hour drive from Baltimore, Maryland to Virginia Beach, Virginia where "Imelda" also opened. "I feel validated when the critics and the audience get what you are trying to convey in the film."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Los Angeles Times' Carina Chocano wrote, "'Imelda' is not a political film in the vein of 'Fahrenheit 9/11' or other recent political documentaries. It resists showing its hand, opting for a more oblique approach. Diaz has said that she hopes the film asks the right questions. But it seems, in this case, that the questions are leading—and rightly so. Marcos is given all the rope she needs to hang herself. She presents her most cherished delusions at great length, whereupon they are swatted flat by more reliable sources.

"Mostly it's Marcos' mysterious sway over those who stood to lose the most from her power, coupled with her amazing inability to face that fact, that makes 'Imelda' maddeningly fascinating. Marcos' life can read like a parable, or a story by Dickens written in his most righteous mood. The life's work of one interview subject, in particular, rivals that of Marie Antoinette's baker for sheer bitter cosmic irony: Imelda's couturier, Christian Espiritu, toiled 'round-the-clock for years in his atelier, sacrificing his seamstresses' eyesight at the altar of Imelda's beauty. He thought then it was his patriotic duty.

Portrait of a country

"Imelda," as Diaz has pointed out, is a character study, but it goes beyond the individual and the forces that shaped her (the loss of her mother in childhood, dreams of stardom, a secretly unhappy private life).

"Imelda" is also a portrait of a country in the grip of a post-colonial identity crisis. If you squint, 'Imelda' could be the picture of any poor nation whose Imeldific dreams betray its troubled link to an extravagant, capricious superpower."

The Los Angeles Times also spotlighted Diaz, 42, in a feature article. In her interview article, Anne-Marie O'Connor quoted Diaz as saying, "For better or for worse, [Marcos] is the most well-known, most recognized Filipino figure. People may not know where the Philippines is, but they know Imelda Marcos and her 3,000 pairs of shoes."

Diaz told O'Connor that when Marcos first saw the documentary, she liked it. Then the former first lady changed her stance. O'Connor quoted Diaz as saying; "Somebody probably whispered in her ear that she didn't look good. I guess you get to the point where you become a caricature of yourself.

"Imelda Marcos lives in a bubble, where voices of dissent don't penetrate. She surrounds herself with people who only tell her what they think she wants to hear. Even now."

Not a hit job

Glenn Whipp, Daily News' film critic, declared, "'Imelda' is the perfect movie for an election year where we have four multimillionaires (including Cheney and Edwards) flying around the country in private jets, trying to convince the unwashed undecided that they are truly men of the people.

"Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippine president Ferdinand and legendary collector of shoes and designer dresses, believed, too, that she represented the interests of her country's poor and downtrodden. 'I was a star and a slave,' Marcos says, recalling just how much hard work it took to live in proper opulence so Philippine commoners could live vicariously through her.

"The film is anything but a hit job. Marcos can't blame Diaz for making her look bad. It's Marcos' who hangs herself, insisting 'we have no human rights cases in the Philippines' (cut to a shot of 70,000 political prisoners) and maintaining that she devoted herself to living a 'selfless' life following the 1972 assassination attempt against her (cut to the Imelda Marcos Shoe Museum in Marikina).

"The film proves highly instructive in the ways in which power corrupts and politics attracts the opportunistic."

Sly editing

Jon Strickland of LA Weekly, a popular alternative paper that picked the documentary as one of its recommended films of the week, wrote: "Ramona Diaz's portrait of Imelda Marcos attempts to get beyond the shoe thing, into the gothic heart of 40 years of Philippine politics. Built around Diaz's unprecedented month-long access to the former first lady, 'Imelda' follows Marcos through her empty days, as she ruminates on her life and fate—even, in a long, lip-bitingly funny sequence, espousing her own personal philosophy using a series of bizarre cosmological diagrams.

"At first, Diaz seems sympathetic to Marcos, but the filmmaker gradually gets her licks in with a series of sly edits between Marcos and other subjects. Marcos describes the few trinkets she took with her when she fled the Philippines, as Diaz inserts US Customs footage of suitcase after suitcase seized in Hawaii stuffed with jewelry.

"In the end, Diaz leaves us unsure about whether we should pity or revile Imelda, a woman alternately charmingly childlike, shockingly remote and, ultimately, as she stands over the waxed corpse of her husband, pathetic."

When "Imelda" opened in New York in June, the New York Times' film critic Stephen Holden wrote, "As a personality study 'Imelda' is a devastating portrait of how power begets self-delusion."

Freedom of expression

Asked by INQUIRER Entertainment to compare this US acclaim with the response to the documentary in the Philippines, Diaz said, "This film was also acclaimed back in the Philippines. Just look at the numbers—it beat all competition on the opening weekend. But the Filipino audience, of course, is different. They are a privileged audience when it comes to this film. They come into it with a more definite perspective than the mainstream art house audience in the US."

Of her experience fighting Marcos in a Manila court when the latter tried to ban "Imelda" from being shown in the Philippines, Diaz stated, "Looking back, it was very stressful. I'm still very disturbed by it. However, it was interesting because it became a freedom of expression case and it migrated from an entertainment story into the front pages of the newspapers. That's what a good documentary film is supposed to do—bring up issues and hopefully encourage discourse—be it constitutional issues or historical ones."

She said she did not anticipate the widespread acceptance of her project. "As an independent filmmaker, I make films that are labors of love," she declared. "While making this film, I was just concentrating on getting it done and out there. That it has gotten this widespread attention and acclaim is still overwhelming, and humbling."

As for the future, Diaz revealed, "I have been offered directing gigs for feature films ever since the release of 'Imelda.' I'm working on three projects right now—two documentaries and a fiction piece. I'm not ready to talk specifics because they are in very nascent stages."

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Aural and visual pollution on TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN we first viewed "Deretsahan" on ABC-5, it came off as just another show biz talk show. Recently, however, it appears to have taken a more controversial and disturbing turn, which merits our concern.

On a recent telecast, host **Amy Perez** interviewed two female cousins and the young man they "shared." It appeared that he used to be the boyfriend of Cousin 1, but he had been "stolen" by Cousin 2.

Naturally, Cousin 1 was incensed, and she expressed her ire on the show in no uncertain terms. Cousin 2 responded in kind, and the young man joined in by insulting Cousin 1's looks, or what he snidely perceived to be her lack of them.

Soon, the war of words turned physical, and "guards" or "referrees" separated the combative threesome.

In another similarly disturbing portion, the guests were three women who "proudly" admitted that they agreed to be intimate with whomever they fancied, no strings or money attached.

The three "free spirits" were roundly criticized by members of the studio audience, but they retorted that they couldn't care less. Once more, the "discussion" went overboard, tempers flared, pungent insults were exchanged and things generally got out of hand.

We are concerned about this combative and cheap turn the show has taken, because it reminds us of similarly combative programs on US TV, like the much-criticized "The Jerry Springer Show."

Those programs intentionally bring fighting and feuding people together, goad them into insulting each other, provoke them to express their anger in physical terms and then pull them apart to avoid extreme mayhem.

This is reprehensible because it is manipulative and confuses "honesty" for crass exploitation of invited guests' emotions.

We trust that local television won't stoop as low as the **Jerry Springers** on US "shlock TV," but we see signs of this on some shows, so it's time to put a stop to the incipient trend before it engenders even cheaper imitations.

Some other show biz talk shows are also guilty of this excess when they intentionally bring fighting stars and starlets together and goad them into screaming shocking invectives at each other.

Viewers shouldn't be exposed to such shlocky vituperation, which constitutes an aural and visual form of pollution that has no business being on TV. Young viewers should especially not be exposed to such livid anger and vile insults.

We trust that TV producers will be more judicious and responsible from here on in. Sure, controversy could result in more viewers tuning in, but the cost is too high for such a dubious advantage to be deemed worthwhile.

If some TV people persist in being irresponsible and exploitative, concerned viewers and advertisers are prepared to react with similar, albeit contrary, unction.

Feedback

FROM Jose Carlos Medina of Makati City: "You are one responsible journalist, I absolutely respect your views.

"My own observations: GMA Records has produced a sensible album for **Jennylyn Mercado.** Her album, 'Living the Dream,' is special, it's more serious and with deeper meaning. It isn't the kind of album made just for teens, but inspires everyone to pursue his dreams.

"We simply love her version of **Celine Dion's** 'Power of the Dream,' and her duet with **Janno Gibbs.** Their voices blend well in their rendition of 'If I'm Not in Love.'

"Jennylyn has a great voice, and the good news is, she has charisma to boot. The biggest factor is, she's in the hands of the right people, GMA's management and talent center."

'Because I Can'

TEEN singer-songwriter **Katy Rose** has released her debut album, "Because I Can." The 16-year-old talent veers a little to the left of mainstream with her deep lyrics and infectious melodies.

"Overdrive," the first single from her rock album, is getting heavy airplay and was featured in **Lindsay Lohan's** hit starrer, "Mean Girls." Rose's musical influences are **Fiona Apple,** Radiohead, Velvet Underground and **Marianne Faithfull.**

The young singer-songwriter has anthems of rebellion to spare. Her debut album has been pithily described as "an urgent missive from a teenage wasteland that's all her own."

Funny, familiar Arthur M

SHOW TIME

IT ALWAYS happens. The first time people hear Arthur Manuntag sing, they're hooked and become instant fans.

A veteran of lounge acts, Arthur Manuntag is known for his Tony Bennett sound, although he is not limited to that. His powerful voice also allows him to do very impressive covers of Luther Vandross, James Ingram, Michael Bolton, among many others.

Many of his Athur's new admirers also rave over the man's wit, so that an Arthur Manuntag performance is often both a rousing musical performance as well as a funny show.

Listen to Arthur and laugh with him as he performs at Greenbelt II, in front of Masas, Cena and Temple restaurants on Sundays, at e's Bar at the 2/L Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on Wednesdays, and at the 7th Note Bar at the Makati Golf Club on Malugay Street (near F. E. Zuellig) in Makati City.

Also every Wednesday, Arthur sings live on radio, on "Private Confessions' Live by Request" on dzMM from midnight to 2 a.m.

His weekly appearance on the popular nightly radio program has won Arthur Manuntag even more new followers who bombard the program hosts, Jenny Mananzan and Marie Gutierrez, with requests and praise by telephone and text messages.

MANUNTAG. Music and wit

Look, 'Baby' can stand on its own!

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

REVIEW

WHEN one is suddenly a grandfather of two, the prospects of reliving early fatherhood become a comforting thought as the curtains rise for the David Shire-Richard Maltby Jr. musical about the ups and downs of parenthood.

Unlike "Miss Saigon," "Les Miserables," "Annie" or "My Fair Lady," "Baby" is not preceded by a glowing reputation, except perhaps that it was a Tony Awards nominee in the early '80s. It played at the Ethel Barrymore Theater from Nov. 8, 1983 to July 1, 1984.

It can therefore rise on its own merits. Whatever the musical's inherent weakness is, the sheer theatrical skills of its cast can pull it off and spark a standing ovation. And that is what happens on preview night, on a rainy Tuesday night.

The tandem of Agot Isidro (as Pam Sakarian) and Jett Pangan (Nick Sakarian) is surprisingly fresh and their scenes in Romance Parts I, II and III are contagiously funny.

That good acting can eclipse good singing is obvious in Miguel Faustmann (Alan MacNalley) singing "Easier to Love" in Act II. Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo (Arlene MacNalley) is my idea of a good singing actress and her big moment is a memorable rendition of "Patterns" in Act II.

"Easier to Love" and "Patterns" are the songs you can go home with from "Baby."

David Shannon (Danny Hooper) is not exactly a perfect match for Lea Salonga (Lizzie Fields), but plodding through the musical, he actually shines as he sings "I Chose Right" with conviction.

The libretto of lyricist Richard Maltby Jr. is taut, intelligent and funny (there is a mass guffaw over Lea Salonga's lines about brilliant men and women losing intelligence and becoming parents), but the music of David Shire doesn't always uplift. There are profound lines on the joys of parenthood in this musical, but in many parts, Shire trivializes them with his music.

Certainly, it takes the immense talent of Lea Salonga to pull off everything—the good and the banal about the musical—with ease. She projects women's liberation with intelligence, not with hysteria. She essays the confusion and fears of Lizzie, as future mother and hesitant wife, with sensitivity. And, closing Act I with "The Story Goes On," "Baby The Musical" suddenly has a grand moment worthy of a standing ovation.

Gerard Salonga as musical director knows the material inside out and conducts a chamber orchestra with uncanny precision. It would be nice to see him conduct something in the classical mold and see how far his musicianship can go.

The highly functional set by Mio Infante enables principals and ensemble to move around the stage with ease. The lighting by Gerry Fernandez is, in many ways, competent. The direction by Bobby Garcia leaves nothing to be desired.

"Baby The Musical," mounted by Atlantis Production, is something members of Congress can watch as they deliberate on the controversial two-child-only policy.

BRINGING UP 'BABY.' Leah Salonga, flanked by co-stars Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo (left) and Agot Isidro, and with David Shannon (inset).

Pops Fernandez, still the face of Shang

SHOPAHOLIC Pops

IF THE Shangri-la Plaza Mall were a woman, according to its drumbeaters, she would be classy yet down to earth, sophisticated and forward-looking, adventurous and exciting, comforting and caring, smart and enterprising, cool and hip—a total woman, no less.

As far as the Shangri-la management is concerned, no other woman epitomizes these qualities than the concert diva herself, Pops Fernandez, who continues to be the mall's image model.

"It's a flattering thought that they chose me," says Pops. "Working with Shang is a fun experience. And I'm very glad.

SHOW STOPPER

"Being a shopaholic has nothing to do with it," she says, but quickly adds with a smile, "Maybe, partly it is."

The mall on Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City, according to the star, is like a second home to her.

"I like it because it is complete," she says. "The things that I need are there. I go to Rustan's for makeup. When I need something for my computer, I go upstairs and check out their stuff.

"As far as clothes are concerned, it has everything, from formal to casual to very, very casual.

"And they have very good restaurants. I'm usually in Dome, Via Mare, CPK or Café Provencal.

"There are new theaters, too."

Pops' first boutique, Pipay, opened at the Shangri-la Plaza.

"A lot of people go to the store and I'm grateful," she says. "There are a lot of walk-ins. I have received favorable comments."

Her store showcases her own designs, which are inspired by her travels abroad. Describing a Pipay girl is describing Pops herself: "She is confident and is not afraid of trying new things," says Pops. "She is fun. I'd rather fail than never try at all. I'd rather venture and find out than regret not having tried."

"Fashion is like that," the singer, actress and entrepreneur points out.

The driver's son who wants to be a superstar

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico

THE FIRST of the three "Pinoy Pop Superstar" grand finalists, Michael Anthony Garcia, had only candy and ice water to sustain him throughout the whole-day audition for the competition at the GMA Network Center.

Michael, 17, recalls travelling all the way from his hometown, Iligan City, to audition for GMA 7. He was supposed to try out for another pop star search, "but I saw 'Pinoy Pop Superstar' so I went there because the title sounded good," he says in Filipino.

SHOW TIME

In "Pinoy Pop Superstar," the contestants try to outshine each other to pass the standards of the judges—arranger-composer Danny Tan, soul diva Jaya and theater and TV director Floy Quintos.

The weekly elimination round winner challenges the defending champion to bag the weekly title. The challenger gets P20,000 in cash while the champion receives P50,000.

A champion who holds on to the title for four consecutive weeks qualifies for the grand finals. If the champion reigns for eight straight weeks, he or she automatically graduates from being defending champion and waits to compete in the grand finals.

Michael says that when he came to Metro Manila last April, he didn't know if the P2,000 in his pocket (including the ship fare) was enough to last him through his stay in the big city. By the time the day of the auditions came around, all he had left was P50.

"I thought the money would be enough," says Michael who is now staying with relatives in Taguig. "It turned out it was only good for the fare."

For the "Pinoy Pop Superstar" registration in June, he borrowed money from his cousins.

Since he first won on the third week of "Pinoy Pop Superstar," Michael has accumulated a grand total of P270,000 in cash prizes, having held on to the championship for five consecutive weeks. The first time he won, he bested the defending champion when he sang "If You're Not the One," the David Bedingfield song.

Michael is one of the four children of a delivery truck driver. His mother, he says, left them when he was only three years old.

His cousins and other relatives prompted him to join the GMA 7 contest. "They said I have a good singing voice."

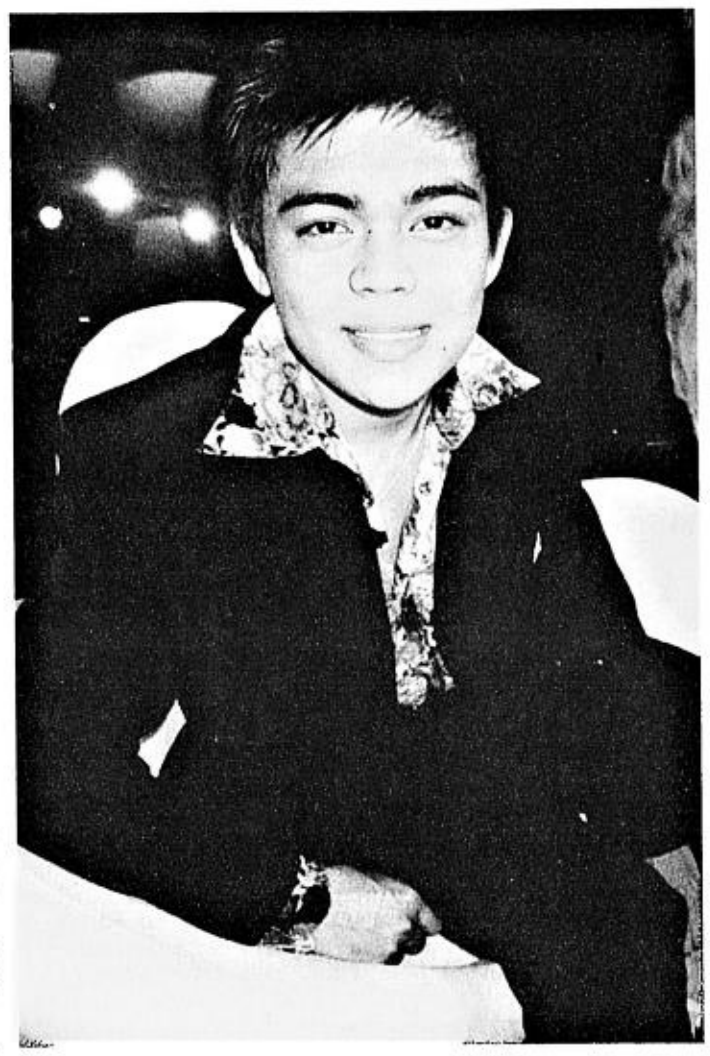
The dusky 5-foot-3 Michael started singing in his second year of high school. He was a member of Kariala Ethniko, a theater group in Iligan City.

Because he qualified for the star search, he has had to stop his schooling. He was supposed to be in his second year of college this school year.

Michael says that with his winnings, he bought a new cellphone and had his father's jeep repaired. He also bought a TV, a refrigerator and a CD player for the family.

Even if he loses now, Michael is already assured of one of the three slots in the grand finals next year. The three grand finalists will vie for the title of Pinoy Pop Superstar title, which will come with a house and lot, a brand new car, P1 million in cash and a recording contract with GMA Records.

When Michael says he didn't expect to come this far in the contest and he is very thankful to God for what he has achieved, you believe him because you somehow feel it comes from the bottom of his young heart.



DOWN, NOT OUT. During the auditions, he was down to his last P50. Since winning, he has earned P270,000 so far.

Sons of Italy object De Niro citizenship

ROME—Robert de Niro will be granted honorary Italian citizenship early next month despite protests from Italian-Americans over his Mafia-related movie roles, a culture ministry spokesman said Thursday.

"If there are no bureaucratic problems," the spokesman said, the American movie star will become an Italian citizen during the upcoming Venice Film Festival, which runs from Sept. 1-11.

The Sons of Italy in America objects to the "distorted" image it says De Niro has given to Italian-Americans in various roles, and has written to Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi asking that Italy rescind its offer.

"He has done nothing to promote Italian culture in the United States," the Washington-based group said.

De Niro, whose great-grandparents emigrated to the United States from the central Italian town of Ferrazzano in the Molise region, has played several crime figures of Italian descent, notably in "Godfather II" and "Goodfellas."

While in Venice, De Niro will promote his new film "Shark Tale," an animated feature with gangster sharks with Italian names and accents.

His ancestral town seems delighted that its most famous native son may become an Italian citizen. "We are very happy with this initiative," the town mayor, Gonvanni Gianfelice, said. Ferrazzano has hosted an annual De Niro festival for the last seven years. *AFP*

No boycott, says 'Boss' Vic

From page A33

the MMDA, Cora Cruz, presided over the meeting.

The committee will meet again on Wednesday.

'Just talk'

Wilson Tieng, a member of the execom, told INQUIRER Entertainment last Friday that the committee had "talked for the longest time and exchanged opinions" about the four movies attributed to Monteverde.

"But that's all that happened," Tieng said. "Just talk and exchange of ideas. The thing is, we cannot change anything anymore. According to our by-laws, the choice is final. It's very difficult. Every year, there are protests. So what's new?"

Tieng said that before the committee could resolve anything, it has to evaluate the complaints first.

"We'll meet again," he said, amid rumors that the other film fest finalists were thinking of pulling out their entries.

Ex-chair's advice

Former Caloocan City mayor Rey Malonzo, also a movie actor and former co-chair of the film fest executive committee, offered advice to the indecisive film fest committee.

"Turn over the running of the film fest to the League of Mayors," said Malonzo. "The event is really the affair of mayors. Why? They are the sponsors of the event because they are the ones who are giving up income from movie taxes. The people running the show now are clueless."

EX-CHAIR. "Give it to the industry," says Malonzo.

TIENG. "There is some sense of paranoia. They're so secretive."

Malonzo said the MMDA could remain as the host of the affair.

"The only reason the MMDA became involved is because we needed a government agency to handle the P50-million incentive that President Macapagal-Arroyo gave the filmmakers two years ago," Malonzo said. "That's why the MMDA was involved. But without that, they can just be the host and let the Metro Manila mayors run the event."

No more millions

The P50 million had been distributed among the producers whose films qualified for the 2002 festival. Last year, the fund was down to P5 million and was divided equally among the winning producers.

This year, producers will not get any incentive from the film fest.

Tieng agreed with Malonzo. "Members of the industry, not the government, should be in charge of the festival," said Tieng. "There is some sense of paranoia... they are so secretive. As head of the publicity and promotion of the film fest, I have a big headache since they are so secretive. They don't want to give me publicity materials. *Ano ba yan*?"

But he said "the screening committee is made up of people who know from the script alone which movies are qualified. They are the ones who know how a movie would turn out, because all these people are familiar with the filmmaking process.

"If you ask us individually, we're clueless," he added. "We have to act on these (complaints and suggestions) as a body. My comments are strictly mine. Nobody can really make comments now because they might be misconstrued as coming from the MMFF."

Winners only

Asked if the festival by-laws really prevented a producer from submitting more than one entry, Tieng said there was nothing in the rules that prohibits submission of more than one entry.

"Only when it comes to the winning entries was there a restriction to limit a film company and its satellite company to one entry each," he said.

"In the case of Mother Lily, she might have submitted more than two entries, but on record, only two of these entries became finalists."

Tieng said these two are "Mano Po 3" from MAQ Productions, Regal Entertainment's sister company, and "Que Sera Sera," Regal's own entry. Joel Lamangan directs both movies.

All entries were submitted with incorporation papers of the film companies and other legal documents, according to Tieng. "So how are we to know who is the real producer?" he said.

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ZHANG ZIYI. Her first English-language film

Zhang as 'Geisha'

LOS ANGELES—After long years of development and some tricky Hollywood deal-making, a movie version of the best-selling novel "Memoirs of a Geisha" is headed into production.

The book became a sensation around the world when it was first published in 1997. The story chronicles a young girl's rise from poverty in a Japanese fishing village to life in high society.

The lead role of Sayuri will go to Zhang Ziyi, the Chinese actress who starred in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and appeared in the comedy "Rush Hour 2," her publicist said last week.

A geisha is a Japanese woman schooled in the art of dance, singing and conversation to be a companion for wealthy men.

Zhang, 25, has been working to perfect her English for several years and now speaks the language with little difficulty.

"This is the first time that I will play the lead in an English-language movie," she told The Associated Press. "It will be a big challenge, but the studios, producers and director have shown great confidence in me. I will continue to do my utmost to make this the best role I've ever played."

Ken Watanabe, an Oscar nominee for "The Last Samurai," will portray the Chairman, a high-powered executive with whom Sayuri falls in love.

Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh, also in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," will portray Mameha, the elegant and experienced geisha who taught Sayuri.

"Geisha" will be directed by Rob Marshall, the Oscar-nominated director of "Chicago" and a Tony-winning director and choreographer. He has long wanted to make this his next project, but was locked in a contract with Miramax Films, while Columbia Pictures and DreamWorks SKG held the rights to "Geisha." After negotiations that threatened to block his participation, a deal was eventually reached among the studios.

For many years, Steven Spielberg was interested in directing the film. He will now serve as a producer. *AP*

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3 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 THE CINDERELLA STORY

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL
3 (DTS) ELLA ENCHANTED
4 (DOLBY) ALIENT VS PREDATOR

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL
3 PERLAS
4 ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SM CINEMA
movietime
NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL 6331901
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 CATWOMAN
4 THE VILLAGE
5 STEPFORD'S WIVES
6 GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL
7 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
8 GARFIELD
9 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
11 CINDERELLA STORY
12 DEAD PEOPLE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749
1 CINDERELLA STORY
2 CATWOMAN
3 I, ROBOT
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 COLLATERAL
6 THE VILLAGE
7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
8 GARFIELD
9 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10 ELLA ENCHANTED
11 DEAD PEOPLE
12 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

SM CITY MANILA 5239240
1 THE VILLAGE
2 STEPFORD'S WIVES
3 COLLATERAL
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 GARFIELD
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
7 CATWOMAN
8 ELLA ENCHANTED
9 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10 DEAD PEOPLE
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
12 CINDERELLA STORY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
5 STEPFORD'S WIVES
6 THE ALAMO
7 THE VILLAGE
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY STA. MESA 7149522 • 7161416
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL
3 THE VILLAGE
4 CINDERELLA STORY
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
8 GARFIELD
9 STEPFORD'S WIVES
10 DEAD PEOPLE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

North

SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17
1 COLLATERAL
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 THE VILLAGE
4 THE CINDERELLA STORY

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 THE VILLAGE
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA KNIGHTS
6 COLLATERAL

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505
1 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
2 THE VILLAGE
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 806888
1 THE ALAMO
2 CINDERELLA STORY
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 STEPFORD'S WIVES
5 COLLATERAL
6 CATWOMAN
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
9 THE VILLAGE
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

SM CITY BICUTAN 7161055
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
4 THE VILLAGE

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975
1 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE

SM CITY DASMA (046) 4323301-04
1 ELLA ENCHANTED
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 THE VILLAGE
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY BACOOR (046)4173868
1 DEAD PEOPLE
2 COLLATERAL
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE
5 CATWOMAN
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7 CINDERELLA STORY
8 GARFIELD

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80
1 COLLATERAL
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 WHOLE 10 YARDS
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU (032) 2313876
1 Imelda
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 PRINCE & ME
4 DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA KNIGHTS
5 COLLATERAL
6 THE UNINVITED
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422
1 DEAD PEOPLE
2 RESERVED
3 ELLA ENCHANTED
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 PRINCE & ME
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
7 RESERVED
8 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 PRINCE & ME
5 ALONG CAME POLLY
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8552684
1 COLLATERAL
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA KNIGHTS
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA
1
ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
11:15 FS/ 11:45 MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/ 8:45/10:25 LFS/ 11:00 LMF/12:40 END
2
STEPFORD'S WIVES
11:50 FS/12:20 MF/2:25/4:30/6:35/ 8:40/10:15 LFS/ 10:45 LMF/12:20 END
For Seat Reservation, call 633 6976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

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Purchase participating Sony recording media products. Text the promo code to 2982 for Globe & Touch mobile subscribers & 286 for Smart & Talk n' Text subscribers for a chance to win 2 De Luxe SM Movie Cards. Winners will be drawn every Monday. To claim your prize present the wrapper with the promo sticker plus the sales invoice at SM Cinema.
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& Watch FOR Free!
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SM CINEMA
Movies are subject to change without prior notice

REGINE SINGS FOR HOME

Songbird Regine Velasquez goes back home to Bulacan province, where she will have a concert titled "Songbird Returns To Malolos," at the CEU Malolos gym on Sept. 4, 8 p.m. "Star in a Million" champion Erik Santos and Jay-R are her special guests, with Raul Mitra as musical director. Tickets are available at Red Ribbon Malolos, CEU, Shell, KFC, Greenwich Malolos and SM Marilao, for P1,200, P850 and P350. The concert is produced by RV Productions. Regine is also preparing for "Reigning Still," at the Araneta Coliseum on Dec. 3-4. For inquiries, call Aria Productions, 426-7531 or 926-7868.

SHOW TIME

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR (PG-13)

3 A CINDERELLA STORY FS 11.30 am, 1.30 pm, 3.30 pm, 5.30 pm, 7.30 pm, LMF : 9.30 pm (GP)

2 THE STEPFORD WIVES FS 11.25 am, 1.40 pm, 3.55 pm, 6.10 pm, 8.25 pm, LMF : 10.40 pm (PG-13)

4 THE VILLAGE FS 1.00 pm, 3.35 pm, 6.10 pm, LMF : 8.45 pm (PG-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE — THE STEPFORD WIVES FS : 12.00 pm, 2.15 pm, 4.30 pm, 6.45 pm, LMF : 9.00 pm (PG-13)

For more information please call 633-7851 loc. 169 to 172

Shangri-La Plaza

THEATRE-MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 — THEVILLAGE 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15 P13

CINEMA 2 — ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10 P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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MUSIC MUSEUM

AUGUST 24-25&31 — NOAH SBIGBOAT — 10AM & 2PM
AUGUST 27&28 — NYOYVOLANTE&NINA — 9:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 11:00 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 pm

4 ALIEN vs PREDATOR 12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm

5 THE VILLAGE 12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm

6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2 11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm

7 STEPFORD WIVES 11:00 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Aug 27	CUSA OPENING CEREMONIES
Sep 11	ATENEO vs F.E.U.
Sep 12	UAAP: CHEERING COMPETITION
Sep 15	JOHN MAXWELL in Manila
Sep 17	SOUTH BORDER CONCERT
Sep 18	WRR ANNIV. CONCERT
Sep 19	UAAP GAMES Semi Finals

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE
MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY...LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MASARAP NA PUGAD / TUKAAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	ALIEN VS PREDATOR, STEPFORD WIVES, CINDERELLA STORY, THE VILLAGE
PREMIERE THEATRE	STEPFORD WIVES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GARFIELD
CINEMA-2	INDECENT BEHAVIOR (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-3	CINDERELLA STORY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-6	I ROBOT
CINEMA-7	CATWOMAN
CINEMA-8	KARELASYON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STEFORD WIVES
CINEMA-12	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-14	THE VILLAGE
CINEMA-15	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

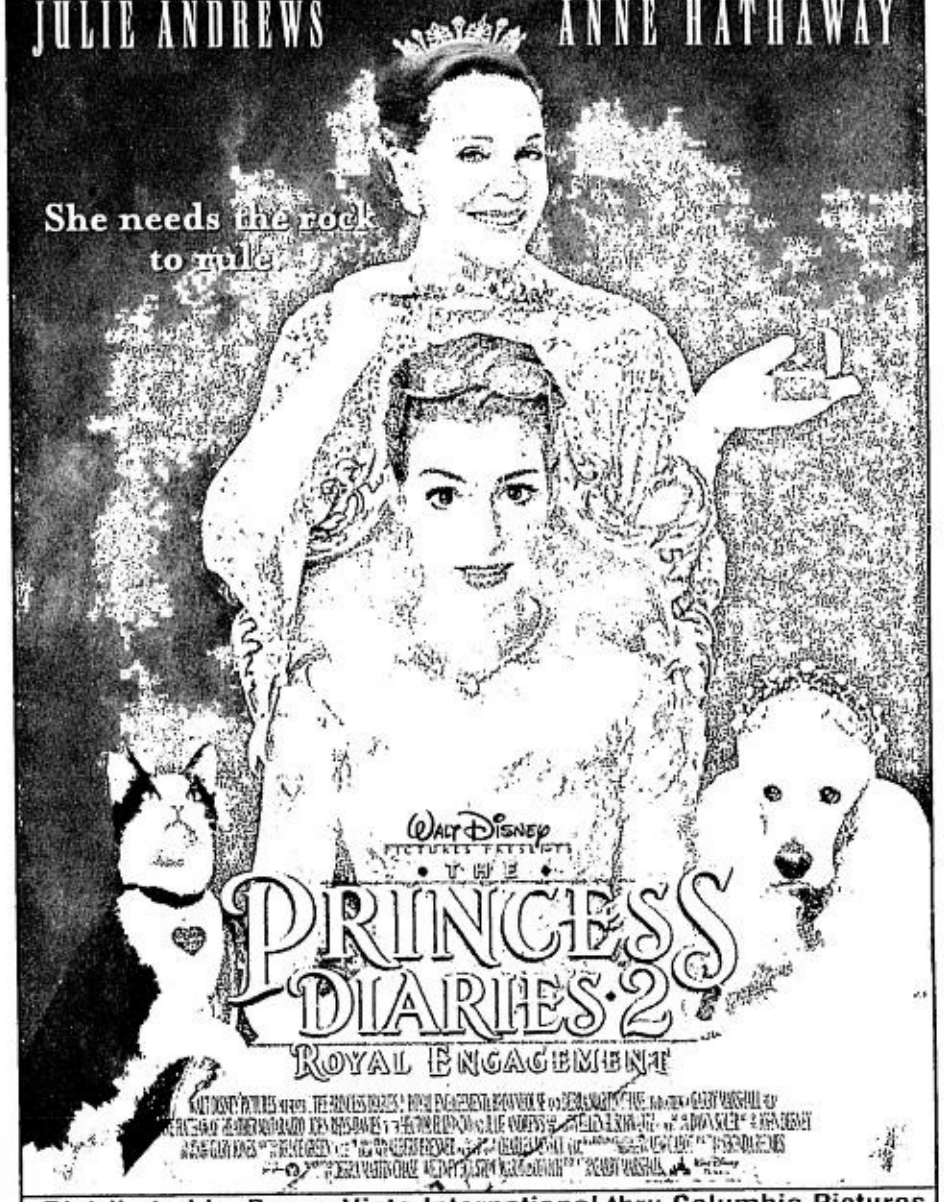
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	ELLA ENCHANTED
CINEMA-2	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

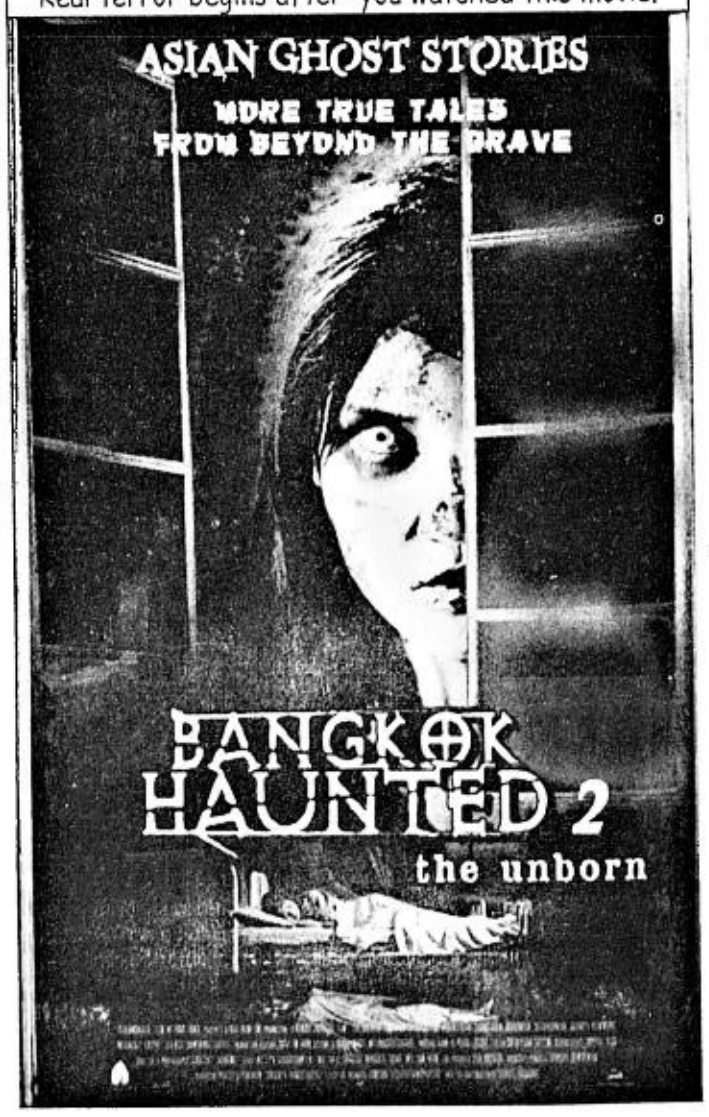
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

THE ROYAL FUN CONTINUES AUGUST 25!
MTRCB RATING ▸ G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'PRETTY WOMAN' & 'PRINCESS DIARIES'
JULIE ANDREWS ANNE HATHAWAY
She needs the rock to rule.

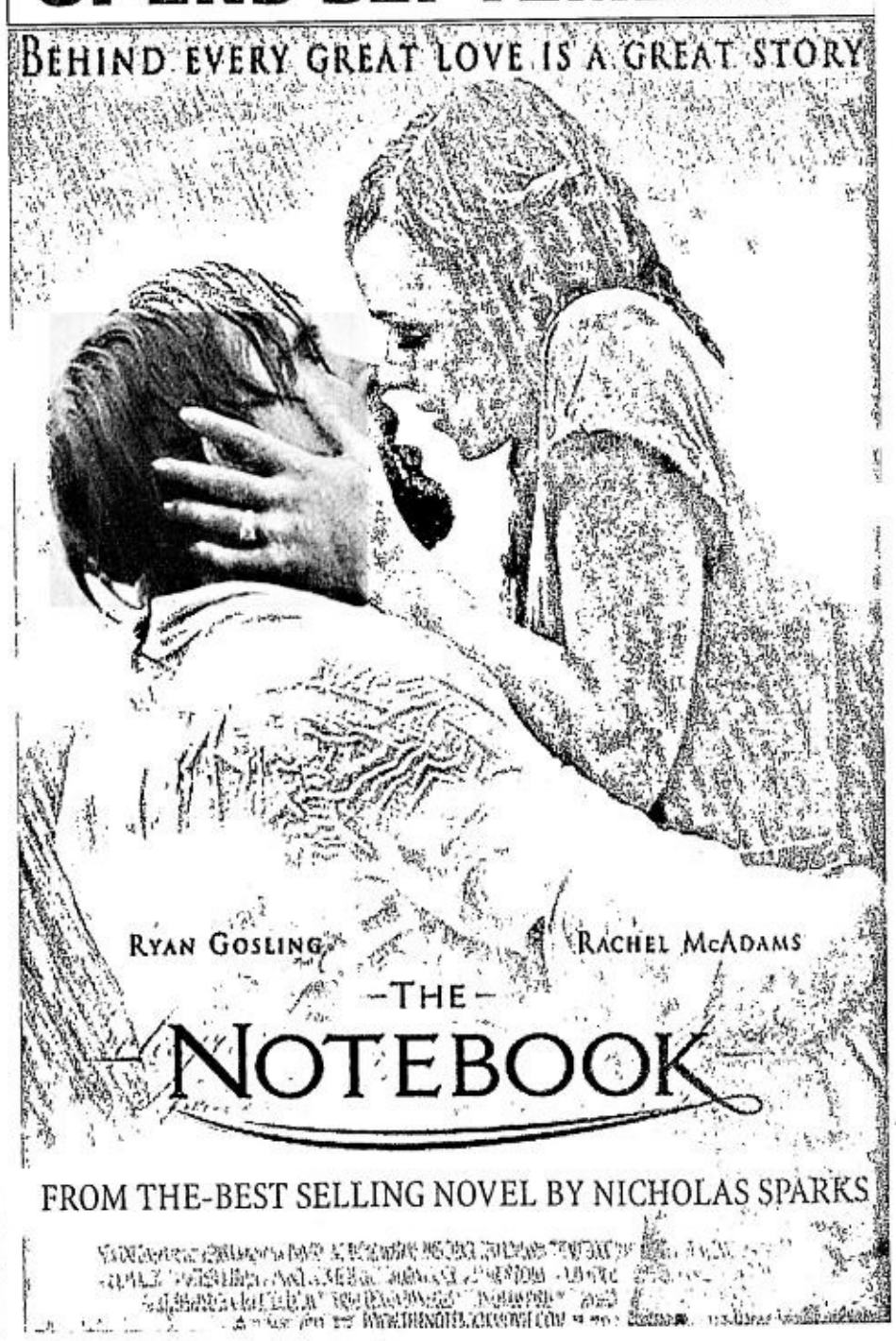


WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
ROYAL ENGAGEMENT
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▸ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
Don't sleep alone, don't switch off the lights at night, Real terror begins after you watched this movie.



OPENS SEPTEMBER 1



FROM THE-BEST SELLING NOVEL BY NICHOLAS SPARKS

THE WIVES OF STEPFORD HAVE A SECRET

SHOW TIME

"TROY"

'Troy,' 'Harry' on DVD

DESPITE the rampant production of pirated discs, the demand for genuine DVDs nationwide continues to rise. In fact, Warner Home Video alone has already sold, 17,000 units of Tom Cruise's "The Last Samurai" on DVD since May this year.

Now come the epic adventure "Troy," which earned about P115 million during its Philippine showing, and the third in the Harry Potter series, "The Prisoner of Azkaban," which has grossed P150 million and still counting.

"Troy" chronicles the passions of two legendary lovers, Prince Paris of Troy (Orlando Bloom) and Queen of Sparta (Diane Kruger), which ignite a war between the Trojans led by the mighty Prince Hector (Eric Bana) and the united tribes of Greece led by Achilles (Brad Pritt).

In "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," the three young wizards, Harry (Daniel Redcliffe) and his friends Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint), return to Hogwarts school of magic where they are forced to face their darkest fears as they confront an escaped prisoner who is a great threat to Harry. They also contend with the Dementors, who are there to protect them.

If you missed these films on the wide screen, Warner Home Video is bringing them back on DVD. Viewers can expect a double-disc DVD of each movie, with never-before-seen footage and behind-the-scene features. The soon-to-be-released "Troy" and "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" DVDs guarantee satisfying quality entertainment for the family.

"HARRY POTTER and the Prisoner of Azkaban"

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AT THE CENTER

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
TATER'S DEKADA ANNIVERSARY EVENT August 24, 2004	DISCOVERY KIDDIE INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT August 26 to 29, 2004	TIMEX PROMOTIONAL EVENT August 27, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES from Thursday to Saturday (7-10pm) featuring Jaycee & Honey (Thu), Kichie Nadal (Fri), Acoustic Jive (Sat)	MERK'S Happy Hour: Romy Posadas & Acoustic Trio (Mae-Nalo-Mon) Main Feature: TOTI FUENTES & BRAZILIA

Onstage — Rep's Globe Theater presents PINOCCHIO August 7 to December 12

EXPO — TRADE HALL FOR EXHIBITS, EVENTS AND MORE! For inquiries and bookings, please call 750-4982 to 84

AYALA CINEMAS

ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)		GB3 (Greenbelt 3)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 A CINDERELLA STORY	5 GARFIELD	1 THE STEPFORD WIVES 2:15, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 THE STEPFORD WIVES	2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2: THE UNBORN	2 THE VILLAGE	6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	2 DIRTY DANCING 2
3 THE VILLAGE	3 THE STEPFORD WIVES	3 THE STEPFORD WIVES 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	3 COLLATERAL 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30	3 THE UNINVITED
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 COLLATERAL		4 A CINDERELLA STORY 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 A CINDERELLA STORY		GB1 (Greenbelt 1)		5 THE VILLAGE 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30	5 PRINCE & ME
		1 THE STEPFORD WIVES 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45			
		2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50			

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AYALA CINEMAS

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Carl's Jr. · Globe · facialhaus · Bioessence · AYALA MALLS Lovemall!

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Cinderella Story

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Pinocchio
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September 11 - 10:30 am, 1:30 - 2:30 pm
Greenbelt 1 Parade Ring Makati City

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NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16
CINEMA 1 — THX — ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

2 THE VILLAGE 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	4 JANDARA 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	6 THE STEPFORD WIVES 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	7 GARFIELD
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	9 COLLATERAL 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	10 A CINDERELLA STORY 12:25, 2:20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:05, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30		
2 JANDARA 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:50	3 THE VILLAGE 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	4 THE STEPFORD WIVES 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20, 10:00	7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:10, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 COLLATERAL 10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 9:00	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30	
3 THE VILLAGE 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30	4 BANGKOK HAUNTED 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10	5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:10, 12:45, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:10, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30	7 A CINDERELLA STORY 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	8 THE STEPFORD WIVES 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:30

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00	2 GARFIELD 10:30, 12:10, 1:50, 3:30, 5:10, 6:50, 8:30	
3 A CINDERELLA STORY 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30	4 COLLATERAL 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40	5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:40, 3:15, 5:50, 8:30
6 THE VILLAGE 10:20, 12:25, 2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45	7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30	8 CATWOMAN 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 THE VILLAGE
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 KARELASYON

CAINTA 240-4661
1 I, ROBOT
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 THE VILLAGE
3 ELLA ENCHANTED
4 A CINDERELLA STORY
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 ELLA ENCHANTED
4 PERLAS
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

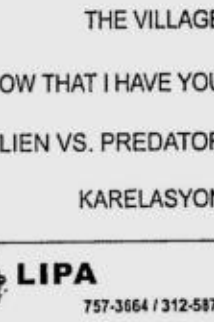
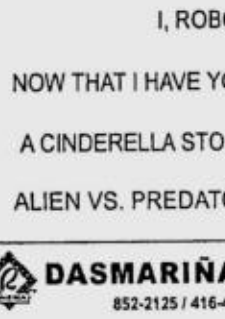
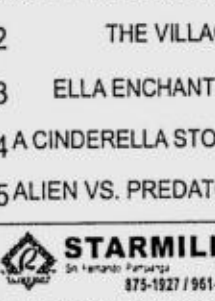
DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 KARELASYON
3 THE VILLAGE
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 ELLA ENCHANTED

STARMILLS (San Fernando Pampanga) 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 KARELASYON
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 THE VILLAGE
6 COLLATERAL

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 THE VILLAGE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 SYLVIA

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 BEAUTIFUL LIFE
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
5 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
6 KAINAN SA HIGHWAY

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
4 THE PRINCE AND ME
5 DEAD PEOPLE
6 ELLA ENCHANTED

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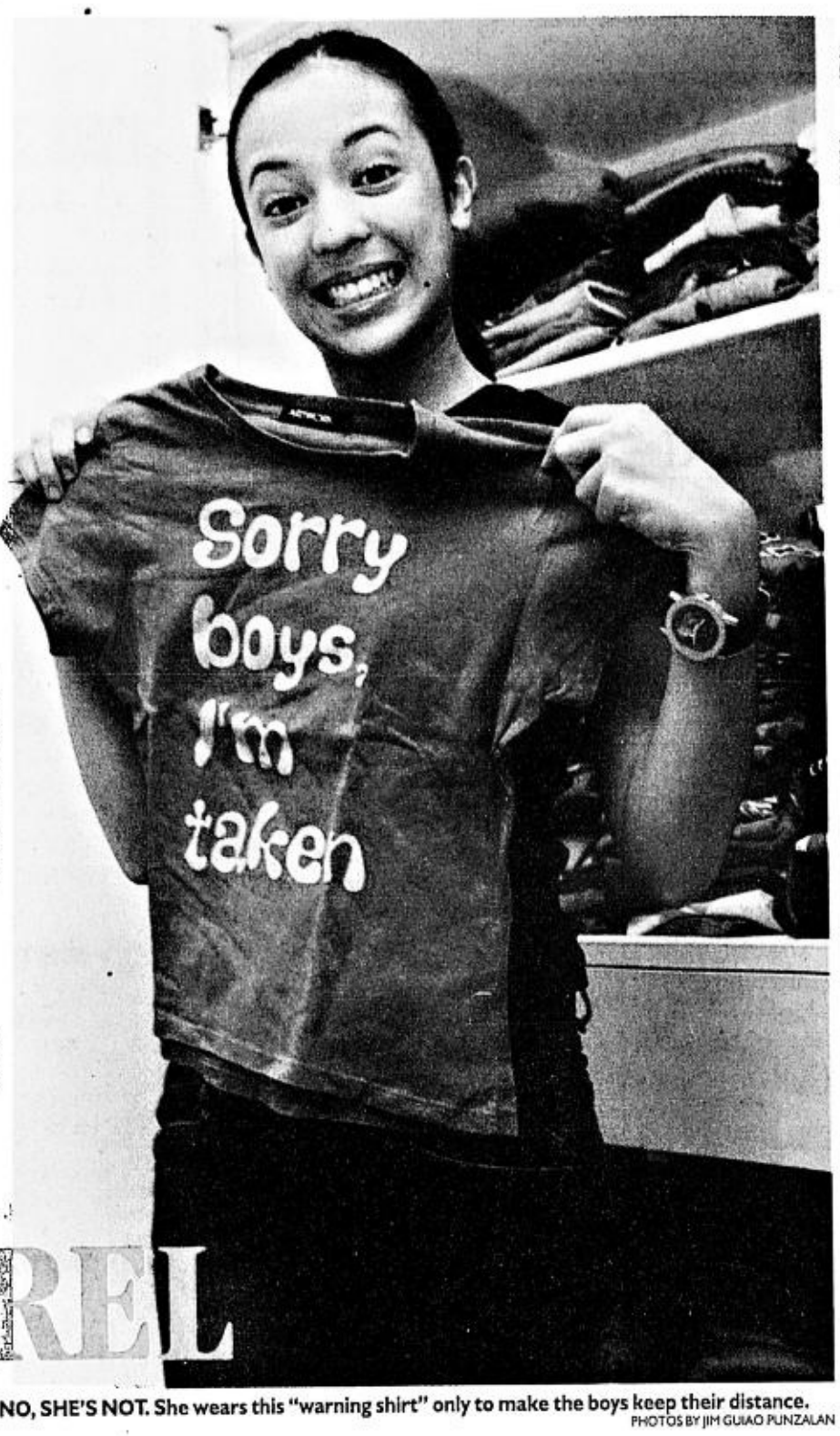
ENTERTAINMENT

FRESH, NOT SWEET. She doesn't like to smell sweet; she likes to smell fresh.

FOR EYE AND SKIN. This pair also makes her skin glow.



NO, SHE'S NOT. She wears this "warning shirt" only to make the boys keep their distance.
PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

SURFER'S SHORTS. In her favorite color

HEAVY MAKEUP. "If you have the money, buy good makeup *na*."

The real KAREL

By Marinel R. Cruz

KAREL Marquez first became the subject of show biz gossip when the sexy video of a girl who looked just like her started circulating two months ago.

"It's not me," said the 17-year-old daughter of singer Pinky Marquez. "I was shocked when I saw it. Actually, the news is not depressing, it's infuriating. Gossips really make me mad."

"I was hurt," she says. "On 'TV Patrol,' I said '*sana ako na ang* last,' because this has happened to other celebrities.

"*Ang bastos nila*! What did they think, that I'd get so depressed I'd kill myself? That's not me."

Karel admits she has a lot to learn when it comes to dealing with show biz intrigues. This is why she turns to her mother for advice.

"My mom always tells me that I have to be strong and never to give up. There are ups and downs in show biz. It's normal, she says. Even the most veteran of artists have gone through this. She said I must always be prepared to get hurt, but I must not let rumors put me down."

Karel is a first year marketing student at the Thames International Business School in Eastwood, Libis, in Quezon City. She first thought of taking up fine arts but felt that a marketing course would be helpful when she puts up her own restaurant or spa someday.

Karel is seen regularly on "MTB" on weekdays and on "ASAP" on Sundays, both on ABS-CBN. She is also one of the veejays on Myx and is a field reporter on "Wazzup Wazzup" on Studio 23. Every Sunday, she plays eccentric teener Charrie on "Seasons of Love," in the same network.

"Being Charrie is challenging," she says. "She's a weird girl, the Gothic type. No one likes her. She talks fast and dresses up differently. And she has this habit of always scratching her head."

As Charrie, she has to wear big eyeglasses, dark makeup, all-black outfits and an Afro wig. "Charrie and I are really different," Karel stresses. "Fortunately, Alex (Iya Villania) and Shane (Shaina Magdayao) gave her a makeover. Now I get to wear 'normal' clothes in the show."

But the real Karel, she says, is actually into stiletto shoes and expensive makeup. "She has lots of those in her room," adds mom Pinky as she ushers INQUIRER Entertainment into her daughter's bedroom on the second floor of their new Makati home, which they occupied only last May. "I even borrow stuff from her sometimes."

"I'm also into electronic stuff," Karel says. "I bought my personal computer and printer just today. I also have two laptops and an I-Pod."

Out of the Closet

COOL IN BED, in this flannel pair

BRIGHT AND PINK, just the way she likes her jackets

Shirts. "This purple baby tee is my favorite. It says 'Sorry boys, I'm taken.' Guys think I'm taken, but I'm not. This is so they won't come near me (laughs). I also have this (another shirt that says 'Go away, no stalking me'). While my friends go to gimmick places wearing sexy stuff, I wear this. It attracts more attention.

"Usually, I wear simple tops. I like the razorback type because it's nice for casual wear and for gimmicks. I recently bought one at People 'R' People.

Pinky: "But *anak*, this *sando* looks like *trapo na*. It's faded."

Karel: "It's new, mom. It's what you call vintage."

Pinky: "And she wore that for a show at Dish!"

Dresses. "I'm really not too comfortable wearing dresses, but recently, I started to like tube dresses. They're not too revealing. I don't go for a particular brand. In fact, I got some of these at flea markets."

Jeans. "I like pants with a nice fit. Once in a while, I wear the flared type. But any type —flared, straight, bootleg—would do for me as long as it's a hipster.

Pinky: "She has a favorite pair. She has just used it but she would ask for it again. I tell her, 'can't you use another pair?'"

Karel: "Yeah, I like that pair because it's low and not too bulky. It makes me look thin."

Pinky: "Maybe I'll use that, Karl. It might make me look thin, too."

Footwear. "This pair of white high-heeled slip-ons is my lucky pair. I use this in most of my shows. I prefer slip-ons over strapped ones because I'm always in a hurry.

"I wore this black pair from People 'R' People earlier today. It's so simple that you can wear it with jeans or a skirt. It's really elegant."

Pinky: "Karl, I like that. Can you buy me one just like that? (tries the sandals on) Look what happens to me when I wear it. I look tall already."

Karel: "I wear this white pair more often than the others because it's really comfy, and it doesn't look too flashy or formal."

Pinky: "She wears that everyday. That's how I know she's home at night. I see those sandals on the stairs."

Karel: "This pair of boots is unique (shows a black leather pair with buckles). It can be worn with jeans or with a dress. It's more comfy than other *pang-porma* boots because it's not too high. I like my boots pointed. My round-tipped boots are costumes for 'Seasons of Love.'

"I always wear my red Skechers rubber shoes to the gym. Skechers provides most of my casual shoes. I prefer wearing the regular rubber shoes when I work out."

Sleepwear. "Most of the time, I sleep in pajamas. My favorite is this pair of blue-and-yellow pajamas with a matching top. I think it's flannel. I sleep comfortably whenever I wear this."

Shorts. "I wore these short shorts to Bora.

"I'm also into wake boarding, so this is one of my surfing shorts. I like the color, orange, my favorite color."

Perfumes. "I like Tova the most.

Pinky: "From whom did you learn that? From me, right?

Karel: "Sorry, mom, from Lindsay (a friend). Sorry. I heard of this when I was 9. I didn't see you use this till later.

"I don't like the strong scents. I go for the sweet ones. I don't like people saying I smell good because of the perfume. I want me to smell fresh."

Eyeglasses. "Of all my eyeglasses, this is the only pair that I wear. I like the color. Sometimes when I've had little sleep and I don't want to wear makeup, I wear this. Also, its color makes my skin glow."

Bags. "My favorite bag is this big and colorful one from Tickles. I'm not like other girls who go to gimmicks carrying small bags. I want to bring everything with me.

"But if I need to bring a small bag, especially on formal occasions, I use this black and silver purse, or this sequined bag from my mom. But I still bring my big bag."

Jackets. "I'm not the jacket type, but there's one that I always wear. It's pink and I wore it last on 'Good Morning, Kris.' I like stylish jackets, or bright-colored ones."

Makeup. "I really spend on makeup. I buy the expensive ones—Shu Uemura, Mac, Sonya, Cinema Secrets, Body Shop. They last a long time. I rarely hire makeup artists because I know my own skin.

"If you want to buy makeup and you think you have enough money, buy a good makeup *na*."

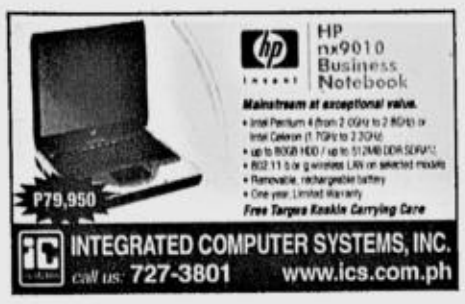
EVERYTHING TO GO. She prefers this Tickles carry-all over smaller ones.

"VINTAGE," she says. Her mom Pinky protests, "But it looks like rags."

BEEN TO BORA, these short shorts

LIKE DAUGHTER, like mom. Pinky (left) wants to wear this pair because it might make her look thin, too.

SEQUINED bag, from mom



MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

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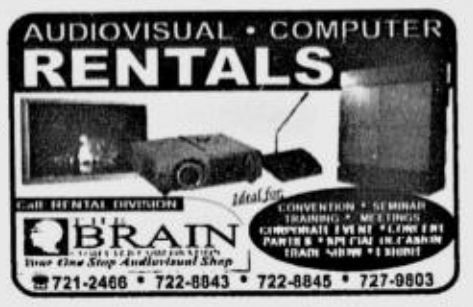

BSP admits inflation target to be breached

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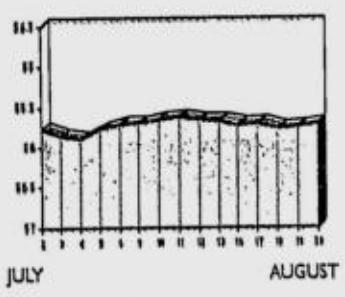


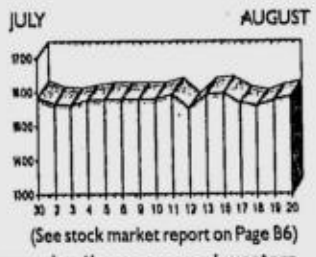
₱55.72 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 20, 2004

¥109.12 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 20, 2004

GOLD: $405.8-406.3
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 20, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Investors seen shifting to second-line stocks



POSSIBLE merger-and-acquisition stories in the banking sector may generate some excitement in the stock market this week but most analysts are saying that investors remain wary.

The main stock index dipped last week by almost eight points or 0.5 percent to 1582.84.

(See stock market report on Page B6)

Jerome Gonzalez, head of research at PhilEquity Fund, said an upcoming theme among investors possible banking M&As specially if the stake of pension fund Social Security System in Equitable PCI Bank is placed on the bidding block.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank of mall tycoon Henry Sy has opposed the plan of SSS to bid out its 29-percent stake, saying the pension fund should stick to an agreement to sell the block to BDO.

BDO had said it was informed by the SSS that the latter would sell its block via a Swiss challenge, which would mean that BDO would be given the right to match the highest bid price during the bidding. This would mean BDO might have to raise its earlier bid for Equitable PCI, the country's third largest bank.

Singapore-based Abacus Capital Cayman Ltd., which manages the Asian Opportunities Fund, has submitted a written offer to buy the stake at P49 a share, or higher than BDO's bid at P43.50 each or P14 billion.

Gonzalez also noted that investors were shifting to second-tier stocks owing to an increase in the risk appetite of local investors and a possible upward re-rating of the Philippines by foreign investors.

INVESTORS/ B6

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has admitted that the country's inflation rate this year may rise beyond the government's average target of 4-5 percent due to skyrocketing oil prices.

However, BSP Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco told reporters that government intervention in the supply side was still the more appropriate response in lieu of monetary tightening.

Crude oil prices hit a record-high of $49 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Friday, due to escalating concern on supplies from Iraq and doubts on whether the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries could pump more crude to ease global supply bottlenecks.

"We don't think that a monetary response is the more appropriate tool at this time unless the pressures affect the demand side. We'll have to reconsider at that point," Tetangco said.

The government has kept the 4-5 percent target for this year and next year, despite inflationary pressures from the supply side.

For next year, the BSP has long conceded that the target range would be missed as consumer prices absorb the full impact of the volatile movement in crude oil prices, transport fare adjustments, possible increases in utility charges, mounting calls for wage adjustments as well as a possible currency depreciation.

"We may exceed the (inflation) target even for this year. So as much as possible we must arrest supply-side pressures," Tetangco said.

Instead of monetary tightening, the BSP is advocating policies to avert price increases in rice, corn and other inflation-sensitive products. The institution said keeping food prices low should be prioritized, including commitments on tariff and trade liberalization.

The country's annual inflation rate has surged to a three-year high of 6.1 percent in July, bringing the seven-month average to 4.3 percent based on the 1994 consumer price index.

While inflation is seen to peak next year, the BSP expects it to return to the 4-5 percent range by 2006.

BSP/ B4

Cable TV rates seen rising by 50%

By Clarissa S. Batino

CABLE TV rates are expected to go up by as much as 50 percent in the coming months as the cost of cable operators continued to soar, according to the Philippine Cable Television Association or PCTA.

PCTA chair Manuel Dabao said that aside from the rising cost of programming or what cable firms have to pay providers like AXN, HBO and Star, the operators were now buckling under the added pressure of paying between 30 and 35 percent in import duty for their importation of capital equipment.

Dabao explained that from 1998 to 2003, cable operators were able to obtain tax credits every time the government would use cable air time for advertising, just like other media outfits.

But starting in the second half of 2003, the Bureau of Customs stopped honoring the tax credits from the cable operators.

The tax credits serve as payment for the government's advertising bills. Cable TV firms were able to use the tax credits to offset their tax and tariff duties until Customs disallowed it.

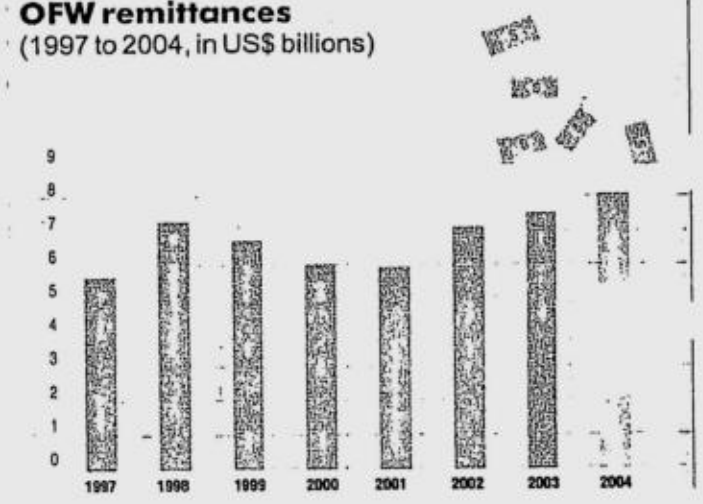
"Customs said that cable firms are not like radio and TV. Since the government stopped giving us tax credits, our importation of cable and other equipment are now subject to a duty of 30 to 35 percent," the PCTA official said.

The National Telecommunications Commission said it had al

CABLE/ B4

INQUIRER MONITOR
Figures that matter in our nation's life

OFW remittances
(1997 to 2004, in US$ billions)



Source of raw data: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

OVER $8 billion or a 6-percent growth in overseas Filipino workers remittances are expected for 2004. This represents a 6-percent growth from year-ago level. Remittances help stabilize the peso and enable robust private sector spending that has been the main driver of the country's economic growth.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

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1.6L model shown. Color may vary.

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SC urged to reconsider order voiding cement safeguard duty

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its ruling declaring void the safeguard measure on imported cement, saying the order effectively advanced the interest of foreign industries over local manufacturers.

In its decision on July 8, the high court, acting on a petition of Japanese-owned Southern Cross Cement Corp., said the law required the Tariff Commission to first make a positive and final determination whether the importation was hurting the local industry before a safeguard duty could be put in place.

In 2001, the DTI imposed a safeguard duty of P20.60 for every 40-kilogram bag of imported cement after the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. (Philcemcor) complained that rising imports—particularly by Southern Cross Cement Corp.—had resulted in decreased market share for local players.

The Supreme Court noted that the tariff body had concluded that Southern Cross' imports of Portland cement posed no threat of serious injury to the local cement industry. But the DTI went ahead with the safeguard duties.

Southern Cross brought the case to the Court of Appeals, which upheld Philcemcor's request for a safeguard duty. The matter was then elevated to the Supreme Court.

In a 54-page motion dated Aug. 4, the DTI also asked the high court to dismiss the petition of Southern Cross to have the safeguard duty removed.

Also, the DTI said the ruling set the Philippines apart from other developing countries which are using safeguard measures.

The DTI also invoked the Safeguard Measures law or Republic Act No. 8800 which gave power to the trade secretary to determine and decide whether to reduce, modify and terminate, or to render final decisions on safeguard measures regarding non-agricultural products.

In saying that the DTI chief did not have the final word on safeguard measures, the SC decision made a strict and literal interprétation of the law and ignored its spirit and intent, the agency said.

"It is the trade and industry secretary, the alter ego of the President, who has the final say, rather than a mere agency (Tariff Commission) of the executive department whose commissioners only serve at the pleasure of the President," it added.

Network anti-virus firm doubling capacity

TREND Micro Inc., a Tokyo-based leading provider of network anti-virus and Internet content security software and services, said it was planning to double its $15-million Philippine operations by the end of the year.

Company vice president Oscar Chang said TrendLabs, the firm's local office, served as the headquarters of its global network of anti-virus research and support centers.

Chang said TrendLabs would double within the year its workforce of engineers and anti-virus specialists to 700, which create 370 more jobs for local technology specialists.

"(This is) a strategic move to increase the company's capacity to provide support and service to its roster of clients, partners and business units around the globe 24x7," he said.

Based in Eastwood City Cyber Park, TrendLabs operates round the clock to monitor virus activity, develop information on new threats, and deliver prompt, effective strategies to neutralize malicious code.

"TrendLabs' expansion will enable us to monitor more vigorously potential security threats worldwide and develop the means to help customers prevent the spread of outbreaks, minimize the impact of new threats, and restore their networks," added Chang. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Court of Appeals lowers fine on G. Cosmos

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE COURT of Appeals recently upheld an order of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) prohibiting controversial marketing firm G. Cosmos Philippines Inc. from further selling securities.

The appellate court's 11th division, under Associate Justice Amelita Tolentino, said it agreed with the SEC that G. Cosmos was engaged in the selling of securities that were not registered with the commission.

The court, in an order dated July 22, 2004, said it was convinced of the SEC's findings that G. Cosmos' transactions involved securities, particularly investment contracts.

G. Cosmos questioned the cease and desist order issued by the SEC in July 2001, saying it was not engaged in the business of securities and that the CDO had no factual basis.

However, the SEC said the collection scheme applied by G. Cosmos to cover its advertising costs for its mail-order sales in Japan was considered an investment contract that was not registered with the commission.

Under the scheme, G. Cosmos would invite sponsors who were willing to bear the cost of advertising products of small manufacturers all over the world for sale in Japan through orders by mail. In return, the sponsors were entitled to receive 30 percent of the revenue generated from the sale of the said products.

The court also imposed a maximum penalty of P1 million on G. Cosmos which, however, was lower than the P57.18 million fine slapped by the SEC on the company.

AFP BAGS $6.1M IN COUNTERTRADE DEAL
The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) recently bagged some $6.1 million worth of countertrade deal arranged by the Philippine International Trading Corp. PITC president Anthony Abad said the deal was the result of AFP's procurement of some $7.6 million worth of high-frequency single-side band transceivers from Harris Corp. of the US. Countertrade agreements have been integrated in AFP's foreign procurement since 1989. Harris Corp. managing director for Asia Pacific region Allan Callaghan (left) turned over the countertrade package to AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, in the presence of the PITC president, in a ceremony on Aug. 16, 2004.

Connecting the rest of Mindanao to the world

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

THE ISLAND provinces of Western Mindanao including Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi (the last two belonging to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)) have long been disadvantaged by their relative isolation, both geographically and culturally, from the rest of the country and even from the other islands of the Sulu and Celebes Seas, with which they were linked historically.

Trade and economic growth in the Sulu Archipelago have been hamstrung by the lack of export markets due to poor transport infrastructure. The absence of larger and modern ports that can handle bigger vessels has discouraged trade between Western Mindanao provinces and other islands in the Visayas and Luzon. The lack of advanced port facilities also caused damage to goods, discouraging traders from Sabah and nearby Indonesian islands from doing business with the region.

It is obvious that an upgrading of transport infrastructure, especially of maritime transport, is vital to the development of Mindanao and Sulu. Two years ago, the Arroyo administration launched the Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH) to reduce inter-island transport cost, especially between Mindanao and the rest of the Philippines. The initiative aims to boost trade and consequently, agro-fisheries modernization in Mindanao, as well as domestic tourism. The highway makes Mindanao products, particularly farm commodities, competitive in the marketplace.

Ports are vital to the success of the SRNH and in support of the national government initiative, the USAID'S Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program is investing in major upgrades of important ports in the Sulu archipelago. The construction of roll-on, roll-off (RORO) facilities, which eliminate multiple handling of trade goods, is a vital part of ports improvement.

The ports that are being upgraded include those of Lamitan and Maluso in Basilan; Siasi and Maimbung in Sulu, and Bongao in Tawi-Tawi. All these projects are ongoing and the ports are expected to be operational by next year. Some P167.3 million is being invested in the new facilities.

These investments support the Southwestern Seaboard link of the National Ports Master Plan prepared by the Department of Transport and Communications and the Philippine Ports Authority.

The new ports will link the island provinces of Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi to two major highways. One of these is the SRNH along the country's western seaboard. By next year, anyone adventurous enough will be able to drive a vehicle from Luzon all the way to Tawi-Tawi. Producers and traders in the island provinces will be able to move goods easier to mainland Mindanao. The Sulu archipelago could also become a magnet for domestic and foreign eco-tourists.

The second highway is the Asean highway. The new ports could revive the traditional trade routes now bounded by the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga). Before the coming of European powers in 15th century, Chinese, Arabs, and the Malayo-Muslim coastal and seafaring communities across the Sulu and Celebes seas traded robustly with each other. Colonialism diminished these links which are now being revived through multilateral ties among the modern governments of the region.

Trade is necessary for growth. Trade introduces communities to new goods, ideas, sources of capital. It brings people of different cultures in contact with each other and fosters understanding. Traders have always been harbingers not only of commerce but also of peace and progress. Traders were among the first ambassadors of goodwill as well as teachers of science and religion. These same "trade winds" will surely bring good fortune and good business to these once remote islands.

(Ms Bian is an advocate for Mindanao. She is vice chair of the Mindanao Commission of Women and National Corn Board, member of the Export Development Council and former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

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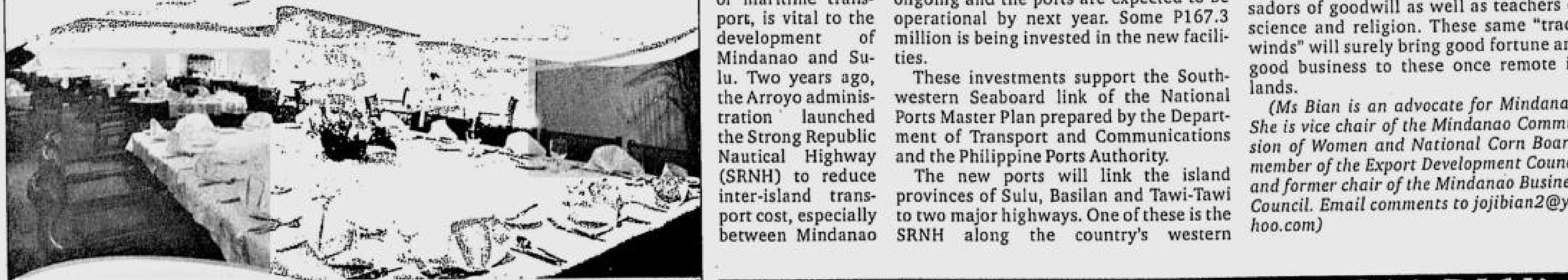

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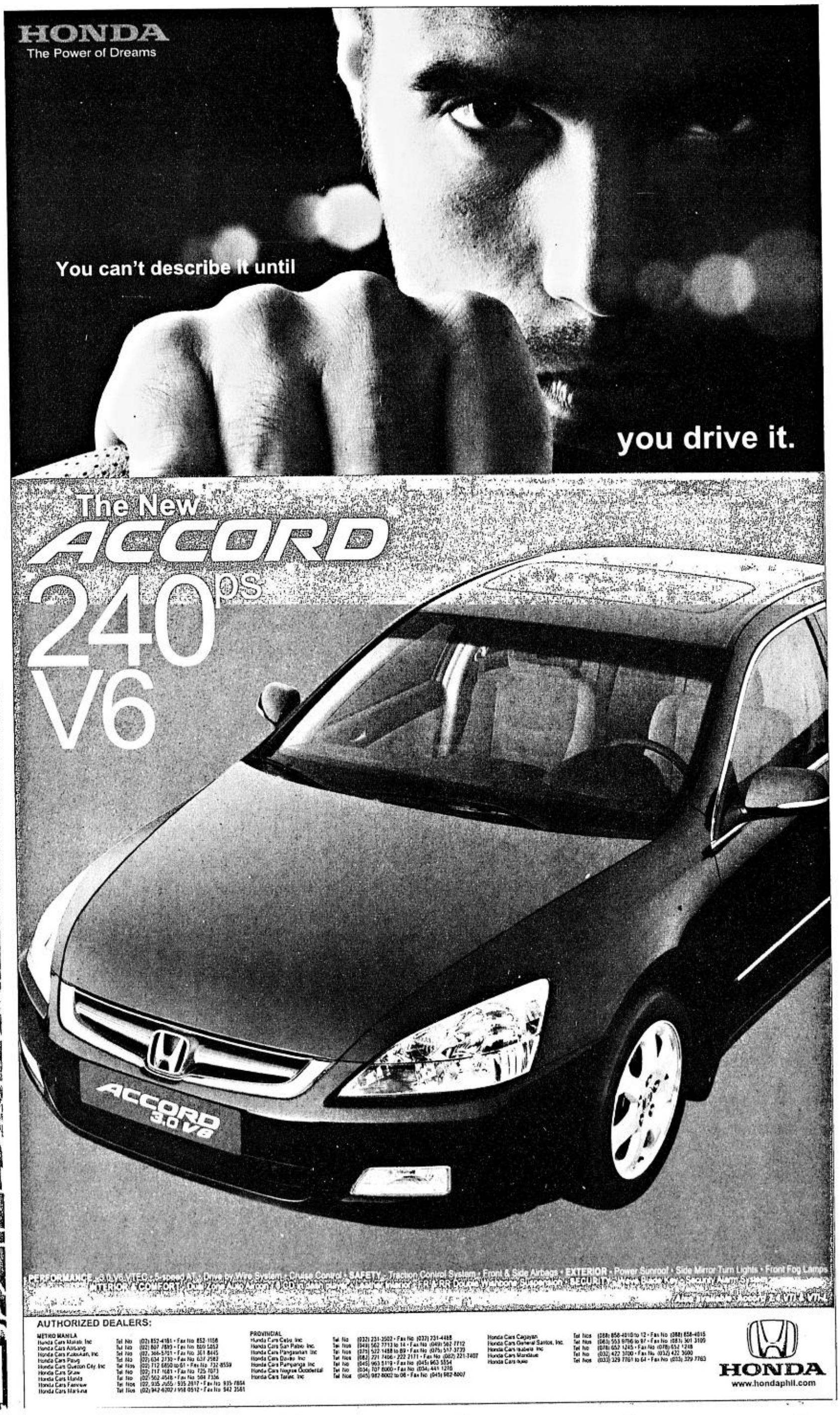

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BSP approves stringent rules on bank examination

By Doris C. Dumlao

COPING with the rising sophistication of the financial system, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has armed its examiners with a more stringent and globally competitive manual of banking regulations for the first time in 30 years.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes told reporters the policy-making Monetary Board had approved the issuance of a new manual that now highlighted risk-based supervision and the five components of Camels rating.

Camels is the acronym used to refer to six key factors used in bank examination across the world—capital adequacy, asset quality, management, earnings, liquidity and sensitivity to market risk.

The BSP, for its part, gives banks a composite Camels rating of one to five, with five as the highest.

"Our examination procedures are now at par with other countries," Reyes said. "The last time examination manuals were issued was 30 years ago."

Over the years, the BSP has shifted its supervisory focus from a compliance-based process to a forward-looking and risk-based framework in line with the standards set by the Geneva-based Bank for International Settlements, the de facto central bank of central banks in the world.

Tougher risk-management guidelines already adopted by the BSP have compelled banks to issue tier-2 instruments and consider other long-term debt instruments, including long-term negotiable certificates of deposits and senior notes. This developed as the BSP started putting risk rating on assets and assess capital adequacy based on such risk weights.

The BSP has also included in the manual the appointment of one officer in charge of coordinating with the banking regulator to beef up its supervision of banks.

"The new manual also highlights pre-planning reviews and identifies weaknesses before going to the bank for examination," Reyes said. "Those weaknesses shall be the target of the review."

The BSP sends a team to examine each bank once a year. Instead of carrying a voluminous book containing the manual, BSP examiners shall henceforth carry soft copies of the manual in compact discs.

"There will be a continuing review to be made each year. There's a working committee assigned to do this and take action as soon as problems are encountered," Reyes said.

The examination shall also include the review of banks' treasury operations to ensure compliance with anti-money laundering laws.

Reyes said the BSP shall likewise strengthen its coordination with the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., which recently regained its authority to examine banks under a new charter. The mandate, however, is contingent on prior approval from the Monetary Board.

"What will happen is that we'll agree on what banks to examine. The priority is for us to do it but if we need help, we'll tap PDIC," Reyes said.

He said the BSP and PDIC could stretch out their resources by dividing the banks to examine or conduct a joint examination in the case of big banks or problematic banks.

"There will be no duplication during the year," he said.

The BSP and PDIC would, however, have to come up with a memorandum of agreement to adopt the same examination procedures.

The good, the bad and the ugly

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

INVITED recently to make a presentation in Congress on non-tax ways to balance the government budget, I could not avoid touching on the various tax measures now being proposed to help close the gaping budget gap. And I noted to my audience that a good way to characterize the various revenue proposals would be to use the title of that classic Western from the 1960s. Which is to say that while wide public opposition to new tax measures is understandable, there are some that are good and justifiable. Others are patently bad and don't deserve a place in the legislative agenda. Still others are "ugly," which doesn't mean they are inherently bad, but are so controversial that lawmakers aren't likely to touch them even with the proverbial ten-foot pole.

The good...

First among the tax measures I would consider to be good is the indexation of excise taxes on sin products (tobacco and alcoholic beverages), to which I had devoted a column several weeks back (*No Free Lunch, June 28*). It is a good measure because it would merely correct a flaw in the 1997 law that converted the tax from an ad valorem tax (i.e. computed as a given percentage of value) to a specific tax (a fixed amount per physical unit of the good). Without pegging the tax to inflation, the real value of the tax has eroded over time, thereby depriving the government of billions in rightful revenues through the years. This one ought to be on top of the list of the Ways and Means Committee, and fortunately, chair Rep. Jesli Lapus agrees.

Another major tax proposal which I consider good is the franchise tax on telecommunications companies. It is good because it would give the public sector a share of the huge profits being made by these firms. And unlike the proposed tax on text messages (more on this below), it cannot be passed on to consumers as readily, since it is not tied directly to sales of cellphone services.

Still another good tax proposal would be presumptive income taxation of certain professionals, given their proven propensity to evade taxes (*see NFL, July 26*). If a doctor practicing in a prominent hospital can claim a taxable income of only P90,000 in a year—an actual case encountered by the BIR back in the 1990s—there is clearly something wrong.

Another good tax for its symbolic value would be luxury taxes, i.e. higher taxes on visible wealth like second homes, luxury cars, helicopters, and the like. While not likely to raise as much revenues as the above, it would nonetheless demonstrate the government's intent to let the tax burden fall more heavily on those better able to pay, especially because studies have constantly shown that our overall tax system is regressive. That is, the poor are actually paying a larger percentage of their incomes in various forms of taxes than the rich do.

...the bad...

Now for the bad ones. Abolition of the value-added tax (VAT) and reverting to the old turnover sales tax system would have been a thoroughly bad idea. I'm glad that the Palace has quickly retracted on this one. As I indicated in a recent column (*NFL, July 26*), this move would have returned us to a system that was unfair, convoluted and highly distortive. And it also would send a very bad signal that reinforces our country's notoriety for erratic policymaking.

The other bad proposal is gross income taxation. It sounds appealing in principle, given the massive tax leakages from excessive and unwarranted deductions. But we can't push for a pure gross income tax, which would be no different from a sales tax. Once certain deductions are allowed that are different from what the current law already provides, we will just open up new avenues for discretion and corruption by tax officials. Better, then, to just tighten up on the enforcement of the current income taxation system.

...and the ugly

For the ugly (translation: controversial) tax measures, the text tax clearly wins hands down. I have argued before that it is a good tax based on standard public finance principles (*NFL, June 21*). But given such strong public emotions over it, it is likely to create such strong divisions and unrest that puts to question the advisability of pushing it through.

Another controversial measure would be the reduction of VAT exemptions, especially if it means removing the exemption of professional services of lawyers, doctors and artists. It makes a lot of sense, and I personally support it, but we've been through this before, and it was ugly. And not the least reason why, is that a great number of our lawmakers are themselves lawyers.

Ditto for the idea of updating fees for government services (e.g. various licenses, passports, airport landing fees, etc.) to adjust for inflation. It's good in principle, as it's only fair to recover the proper costs of providing such services, which have risen over the years with the rising price level. But this is likely to provoke strong public reaction as well. No congressional action is actually needed to push this through. It just requires political will on the part of the Executive—which, unfortunately, is the most expensive government commodity these days.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

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BSP admits inflation target to be breached

From page B1

Based on the BSP's simulations, the inflation rate may shoot up to an average of 5.2-5.9 percent next year or way above the government's targets without policy interventions.

At the moment, Tetangco said there was still a comfortable differential between local and foreign interest rates that could prevent the outflow of foreign exchange.

A weaker peso value against the US dollar, in turn, is seen to adversely affect consumer prices as imports will become more expensive.

Cable TV rates seen rising by 50%

From page B1

ready endorsed the cable industry as part of the broadcast media to entitle them to tax credits provided by PD 1362.

NTC Chair Ronald Solis said it was up to the finance department to decide on the issue.

Dabao said the big cable operators like Sky Cable have started to increase their fees gradually. Skycable vice president Juno Henares-Chuidian said the company had increased its rates by about 5 percent just to factor in the higher cost of programming.

"The foreign exchange is killing the industry. Then there is also the cost of piracy or cable theft," Chuidian said.

Dabao said the last time most cable operators increased their rates substantially was in 2000 when the exchange rate was about P43 to a dollar. The dollar is now worth P55.72.

The PCTA chair said that cost of programming went up by 10 to 15 percent in June for most cable channels.

"The industry is really feeling the pinch and without the tax credits, the rate increases would happen soon," Dabao warned.

The NTC said the tax credit privilege "should also be applied to the cable TV industry inasmuch as cable TV facilities are similarly accessed by the government in its function of public information and education."

The Commission also cited a 1999 opinion of the justice department that classified cable television as a form of mass media.

"The basis for the grant of tax credits is PD 1362, which recognizes the contribution of the broadcast media in national development effort and that the implementation of many government projects is facilitated through the use of broadcast media," the NTC noted earlier.

The PCTA is an organization of cable television operators in the country with 365 members and 24 affiliate members. The PCTA members serve 90 percent of the total cable subscribers in the country.

Smarter in HK

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

FROM selling prepaid telephone cards to call the Philippines, the PLDT Group has now expanded its Hong Kong presence by offering Smart wireless services through prepaid SIM cards in the Pinoy-rich territory.

What is even more enticing is that texting or calling the Philippines from Hong Kong through "1528 Smart," as the service is formally called in the Chinese territory, is cheaper—50 percent lower in the case of sending a text message—than those offered by other HK cellular phone companies.

According to the grapevine, a PLDT team led by Al Panlilio, president of PLDT Global, held a soft launch yesterday at the Chater Garden, where thousands of Filipina domestic helpers congregate for their Sunday day off, preparatory to next Sunday's actual launch.

And to stress the importance of the HK market and Smart's first overseas foray, PLDT/Smart top guns Manuel V. Pangilinan, Napoleon Nazareno, and Anastacio Martirez will all be flying to the territory for the big event.

1528 Smart—1528 refers to the popular pre-paid overseas call cards to the Philippines that PLDT has been selling in Hong Kong for some time now—is actually a joint venture with CSL, a Hong Kong telecom company.

But despite the revenues being split between CSL and the PLDT Group, the joint venture has managed to offer lower tariffs for Philippine-bound services. For instance, 1528 Smart is charging 50 HK cents for every text to the Philippines, compared to HK$1 charged by other Hong Kong cell phone companies.

Voice calls, on the other hand, cost HK$1.25/minute, versus the HK$1.45 to HK$1.80 charged by other Hong Kong providers.

According to a Smart briefing paper, except for the name, a Hong Kong phone equipped with 1528 Smart SIM card will look like and operate like a Philippine Smart phone. In other words, just like home.

In addition to pre-paid SIM cards, Smart will also be selling cellular phones in Hong Kong, something PLDT/Smart's parent company, First Pacific, used to do up to the late '90s when it operated a wireless phone company in the territory.

With an estimated 200,000-plus Filipinos working in Hong Kong, Smart will apparently use the cheaper text and call services to hook the overseas Pinoys and graduate them into Smart's higher mark-up mobile commerce services such as Smart Money, Smart Load, Smart Pasaload, and Smart Padala.

According to the grapevine, after Hong Kong, Smart is planning to replicate the same services in Pinoy-rich Japan, with its partner, NTT.

Sicced by SEC

THE ERAP-HOLDOVER board at the cash-rich Philcomsat Holdings Corp. has just lost a crucial battle for legitimacy after the Securities and Exchange Commission ruled that the rump board, represented by the Victor Africa-Juan Ponce Enrile group, failed to even follow the elementary SEC guidelines.

This came in the wake of an SEC ruling last week that favored the group of Ambassador Manuel Nieto and GMA-PCGG appointees led by Free Press publisher Enrique Locsin, brother of Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr.

"The Commission hereby upholds the validity of the stockholders' meetings (of POTC subsidiaries POTC and Philcomsat) conducted by the Nieto Group in view of the clear compliance of the said group with the conditions set forth by the Commission," said SEC general counsel Vernette Umali-Paco.

Philcomsat Holdings has about P1 billion in cash deposits, and the Africa-Enrile group is fighting the Presidential Commission on Good Government on how to dispose of such a windfall.

Strangely, Mike Arroyo classmate Honorio "Babyboy" Poblador III is allied with the Africa-Enrile board, while his sister, Concepcion "Tata" Poblador, is aligned with the Nieto-GMA appointees.

Grappling over Golangco

CONSTRUCTION magnate William Golangco is in bad shape at the Cardinal Santos, the San Juan hospital that he himself built.

But what is sadder is that the Golangco children by the contractor's first, late wife are already fighting with the second wife over the final disposition of his remains.

The custody fight has even reached the courts.

Heard through the grapevine

OUTGOING DBP president Simon Paterno already has a job lined up for him, as country manager of investment banking giant Credit Suisse First Boston.

The current country manager, Lito Sibayan, will assume a regional assignment with Paterno's appointment.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

New audit plan seen curbing graft at Customs

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is moving to curb corruption in the Bureau of Customs by facilitating a new auditing system for cargoes that enter the country's ports.

Finance Undersecretary Noel Bonoan said the new system, called the post-entry auditing, would allow shipments to enter and pass through the ports without prior auditing. Specific post-auditing rules and processes would be imposed for strict compliance of BOC personnel, he said.

"There have been complaints from different business groups that they like some rules clarified. Importers are concerned that some rules are vague and therefore subject to abuse," Bonoan told reporters.

Some importers complained that their shipments were being withheld for a long period in Customs warehouses because these were being subjected to various auditing processes. The "entry" auditing has been a source of corruption as importers would resort to giving favors just to hasten the release of their shipments.

Bonoan said one part of the auditing process that is often subjected to vague rules is the valuation of imports. He said the BOC has to impose specific and clear rules on valuation to address disagreements between importers and BOC personnel over how the value of the imports should be determined.

The finance official said the DOF had been meeting with various business groups and with representatives from the BOC to craft rules on how the post-entry auditing system shall be implemented.

The BOC has recently created the Post-Entry Auditing Group (PEAG) to perform the new auditing functions.

BOC Assistant Commissioner Nelson Soliman said the PEAG would be specifically tasked to determine the declared value of shipments, their tariff classification, and their corresponding duties and taxes. These information are sought for after shipments have been released from the BOC.

POWER SECTOR REFORM FORUM
Energy Secretary Vincent Perez meets with (from left): Michael Clancy, ECN chair; Michael Wooton, business development director of Shell Exploration; and Joey Leviste, Polistrat International chair and ECN vice chair, after the Economist Corporate Network's Philippine Business Leaders Breakfast Forum on power sector reform at the Oakwood.

BPI named securities custodian

BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) has been accredited by the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to act as securities custodian pursuant to the provisions of BSP Circular 428.

The circular was issued in line with the policy of the BSP to promote the protection of investors in order to gain their confidence and encourage their participation in the development of the capital market.

The BSP prescribed very stringent pre-qualification requirements and so far only three foreign banks and one local bank have been accredited. BPI is the only local bank to be accredited as independent custodian, and also the first bank which will act as such through its Asset Management and Trust Group (AMTG).

Pre-need firm seen getting loan, equity infusion

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

COLLEGE Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. has told the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that it had received a proposal from a foreign group willing to extend a $127-million loan to help address its trust fund deficit.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said she was told the foreign lender would seek approval from its mother company next week on the proposed loan.

Company sources confirmed that once the funding has been secured, CAP would use the cash, equivalent to roughly P7.1 billion, to buyback the assets in its trust fund, which consisted of participation in approximately P3.4 billion worth of bonds backed by the cash flow from the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) project and certain real estate holdings. The loan being discussed may be payable in full after ten years wherein CAP will only need to pay interest payments within the repayment period.

Sources said there was already an initial agreement with the foreign investor and that it was in the process of completing documentation requirements for the loan. Both SEC and company sources have not identified the investor.

The MRT bonds were acquired in 2002 from Fil-Estate Management Inc. The bonds are zero coupon notes issued by MRT III Funding Corp. with an aggregate present value of $50.7 million and maturing in various dates starting 2013 to 2015. The bonds have a future value of approximately $195 million, the company had said in its financial report.

Aside from the MRT bonds, other assets the pre-need firm may buyback include its property investments in Nasugbu, Batangas.

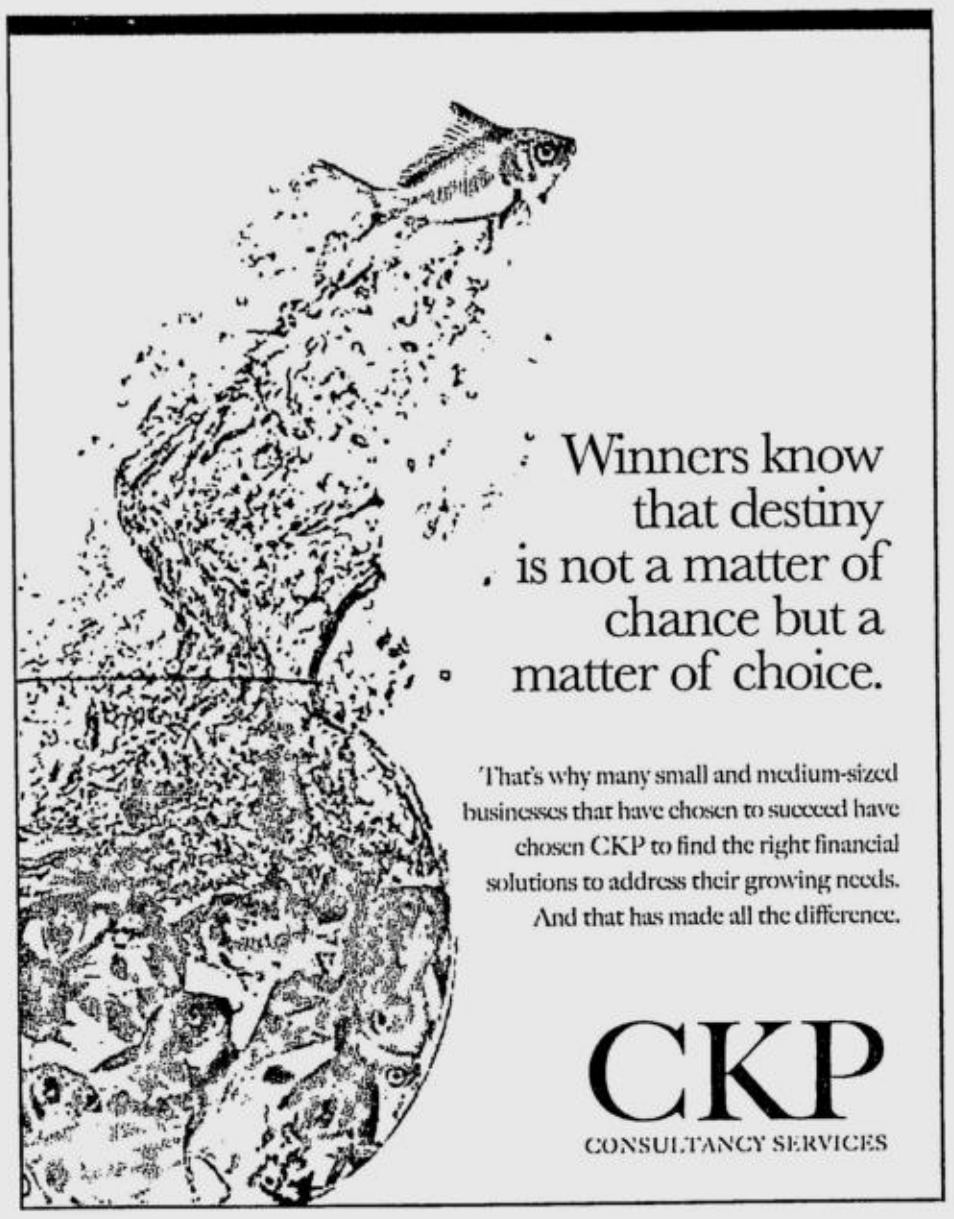
Aside from the $127-million loan, CAP is discussing with the foreign group a possible $100-million (roughly P5.5 billion) equity infusion into the pre-need firm. It has yet to be agreed whether the equity investment would result in the issuance of preferred or common shares to the investor.

CAP is expected to apply for P6 billion in additional education plans and new products in the coming weeks.

Meantime, the SEC said there was no cease-and-desist order (CDO) issued against CAP in reply to public inquiries.

CAP's dealer license or its permit to sell securities will expire on Sept. 30.

The SEC is giving CAP until the end of September to present its final business plan and bring in a new investor to address its trust fund deficit, which, in turn, will be major factors in renewing the pre-need firm's dealer's license.



RCBC signs deal on sale of P3.9B worth of bad loans

By Doris C. Dumlao

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp., the banking arm of the Yuchengco group, has finalized a deal to sell close to P3.9 billion worth of non-performing assets to US investment bank Lehman Brothers using the Special Purpose Vehicle framework.

RCBC vice chair Cesar Virata said the assets to be unloaded would consist of non-performing loans rather than foreclosed assets.

The signing of the sale and purchase agreement with Lehman would take place this Wednesday, he said.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said RCBC had obtained from the BSP a certificate of eligibility to push through with the sale.

As RCBC will sell the assets using the SPV framework, it will avail itself of the fiscal incentives offered by the SPV Law, which was passed in 2002.

The law intends to help banks get rid of their NPAs by waiving some of the taxes and reducing the fees usually collected in the sale or transfer of assets. The law waived the documentary stamp tax, the capital gains tax and the e-VAT (expanded value added tax) and likewise reduced the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent.

The tax reliefs and other benefits are available only up to April 8, 2005.

Reyes said the BSP hoped that more banks would be able to dispose of their assets before the deadline to avail themselves of the SPV perks.

Tomorrow, Philippine Bank of Communication will bid out P12.5 billion worth of non-performing assets, a combination of NPLs and real and other properties owned and acquired (ropoa).

About a dozen groups have expressed interest on PBCom's assets. The bank is being assisted by KPMG Laya Mananghaya in this undertaking.

Land Bank of the Philippines and Philippine National Bank, assisted by Ernst & Young, are likewise expected to bid out part their bad assets within the next two months.

Land Bank plans to sell P17-P19 billion worth of non-performing assets while PNB has identified P10 billion worth of assets for similar disposition using the SPV framework.

Last month, Bank of the Philippine Islands sold P8.6 billion worth of bad loans to Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Inc., the first transaction structured by a Philippine bank under the SPV framework.

iVantage stocks rise on iBank IPO plan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

LOCAL investors have been buying stocks of iVantage Corp., a holding company for technology and financial companies, on expected higher earnings and the gains from the maiden public offering of International Exchange Bank (iBank) in the third quarter.

iVantage holds a 20.89-percent stake in iBank, which is expected to offer its shares to the public sometime in October, sources said.

iVantage also has a remittance business through 100-percent owned E-Business Services Inc. (E-Biz) and a 77-percent interest in search engine and web portal Yehey! Corp.

But iVantage seems to be holding out on its own, said an analyst from Wealth Securities who sees the firm growing its net income to P165 million this year, driven by its remittance and banking investments compared with the P108.2 million in net earnings recorded last year.

The local analyst said the rise in iVantage stocks was an "asset play."

"It went up because it's trading below its fair value. Now that iBank will list, investors are thinking, what will be the value of iBank to iVantage," the analyst explained.

Stocks of iVantage have been steadily moving up since July, hitting a day high of 78 centavos last Aug. 13. Its share price closed at 67 centavos last Friday. Its 30-day low based on data from the Philippine Stock Exchange was at 35 centavos last July 15.

Wealth Securities said in a report in late July that small capitalized stocks were back in favor and have begun to outperform the stock market index in the past few months. What has caught the eye of investors were mining and oil stocks that were speculated to restart exploration projects and companies that have been trading below their net asset values.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 20, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.25	232,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	40.5	41	40.5	41	454,400
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	20
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40.5	42.5	40.5	42.5	254,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.47	650,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25.5	26	25.5	25.5	123,500
Philippine National Bank	23	23.25	23	23	10,300
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	200
Security Bank Corp.	21.5	21.5	21.25	21.25	29,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	250,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2230	2250	2230	2250	1,150
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	821,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	112	112	110	110	12,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1510	1510	1510	1510	1,420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	20,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.65	1,900,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	870	870	865	870	15,860
Ipeople Inc.	1.42	1.44	1.4	1.4	179,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	7,253,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1260	1280	1260	1270	86,810
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.67	0.65	0.67	8,700,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	74,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	137,200
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24.25	23.75	24	1,135,500
Petron Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	1,270,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	110,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4	4.1	4	4.1	6,308,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.4	0.36	0.38	1,720,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.76	280,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	2.95	218,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	25	26	25	26	535,400
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.81	0.78	0.81	80,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	58	57	58	288,300
San Miguel Corp. B	69	70	69	70	53,400
Universal Robina Corp.	7	7	7	7	20,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	310,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	60,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	7,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.5	898,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	150,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	33,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	500
Alo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.14	1.22	1.14	1.16	683,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	108,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	40,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	24.25	24.25	24	24.25	93,500
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	6,020,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.125	0.125	780,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.225	0.21	0.225	2,170,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.72	1.5	1.7	36,640,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.028	0.03	0.028	0.03	2,000,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	11,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.25	25	24.25	24.75	1,150,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.0675	0.07	16,700,000
Ionics Inc.	1.38	1.54	1.38	1.54	2,109,000
J.G Summit Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.66	32,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.2	1.42	1.2	1.42	770,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	600,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.017	0.015	0.015	17,300,000
Medco Holdings	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2,266,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp	0.33	0.35	0.32	0.35	49,740,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	10,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.14	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	34,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	3,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.5	1.56	1.5	1.56	667,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.67	0.72	0.66	0.72	12,830,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	20,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	60,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	80,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	1,699,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.245	4,420,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.25	2,370,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	14,840,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	220,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	1,060,000
MRC Allied Ind Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	30,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	9,000
SM Development Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	5,657,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0046	0.005	0.0046	0.0048	212,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	20,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	23,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.22	150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	3,510,000
Manila Mining Corp A	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	200,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	310,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	316,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.028	0.039	0.028	0.03	44,900,000
Philex Mining Corp A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	120,000
Philex Mining Corp B	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	1,050,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	500,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.004	459,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	68,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	320,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	50,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.46	3	2.46	3	546,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.034	900,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000

CURRENCIES

August 22, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.808081	1.000000	55.8090
Japan	Yen	0.007388	0.009143	0.5103
United Kingdom	Pound	1.481131	1.832900	102.2923
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.103612	0.128220	7.1558
Switzerland	Franc	0.650419	0.804894	44.9203
Canada	Dollar	0.623038	0.771010	43.0293
Singapore	Dollar	0.472700	0.584966	32.6464
Australia	Dollar	0.584887	0.723798	40.3944
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.143564	2.652661	148.0424
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.215483	0.266660	14.8820
Brunei	Dollar	0.471321	0.583260	32.5512
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000108	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.019505	0.024137	1.3471
UAE	Dirham	0.220011	0.272264	15.1948
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.237500	69.0636
Argentina	Peso	0.268912	0.332779	18.5721
Brazil	Real	0.271442	0.335909	18.7467
Denmark	Kroner	0.134454	0.166387	9.2859
India	Rupee	0.017480	0.021631	1.2072
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212681	0.263193	14.6885
Mexico	New Peso	0.071206	0.088117	4.9177
New Zealand	Dollar	0.541973	0.670691	37.4306
Norway	Kroner	0.120983	0.149716	8.3555
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013790	0.017065	0.9524
South Africa	Rand	0.123183	0.152439	8.5075
Korea	Won	0.000700	0.000866	0.0483
Sweden	Kroner	0.108562	0.134345	7.4977
Syria	Pound	0.022366	0.027678	1.5447
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023830	0.029490	1.6458
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000422	0.000522	0.0291

Investors seen . . .

From page B1

"Also note that local institutions such as banks' trust funds and pension funds have little or no position in equities and could be the next wave of buyers in the market as they search for better yields," he said.

BPI Trade, meanwhile, noted in its stock market report that buying on selected blue chips last Friday managed to push the index up almost 10 points for the day. Gainers included Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Equitable PCI Bank, San Miguel Corp., SM Prime Holdings Inc., Jollibee Foods Corp., Metro Pacific Corp., DMCI Holdings and Manila Electric Co.

BPI Trade said investors picked up shares of the Lopez group such as Meralco and First Philippine Holdings as the Energy Regulatory Commission asked the Court of Appeals to uphold its decision granting Meralco a 17-centavo per kilowatt-hour rate increase.

The bank said oil prices remained a worry as this has limited the market's uptick.

"Investors are still cautious on concerns that higher oil prices would have a negative impact on corporate revenues and earnings moving forward. The market will remain sideways within the 1550 to 1600 range," BPI Trade noted.

However, Gonzalez expressed optimism about the second half, saying that in terms of profitability, it looked like companies would report stronger earnings. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,000,000	1,100,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,100,000	-
Baguio Country Club	550,000	650,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	60,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	190,000	250,000
Canlubang	350,000	500,000
Canyon Woods	-	200,000
Capitol Hills	115,000	135,000
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	Please Call
Celebrity Sports Club	-	170,000
Club Filipino	-	135,000
Eagleridge "A"	200,000	230,000
Eagleridge "B"	-	300,000
Eagleridge "C"	-	350,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	160,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	230,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	240,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	180,000	240,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	250,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	10,600,000	Please Call
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,500,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	2,350,000	2,600,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	400,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	650,000	-
Manila Yacht Club	-	370,000
Metroclub "A"	150,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	-	150,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	260,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	150,000	210,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	330,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	450,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	180,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	180,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Spa & Lodge	550,000	650,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,500,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	200,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	700,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	150,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	-	200,000
Valley Golf	230,000	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,300,000	-

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SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,300,000/1,350,000*	1,000,000/1,100,000*
Alta Vista	350,000	240,000
Baguio Country Club	630,000	-
Calatagan Golf	70,000	-
Camp John Hay	240,000	180,000
Capitol Hills	135,000	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports	170,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	270,000/400,000**	-
Eastridge A/B*	-	70,000/90,000*
Forest Hills A/C*	160,000/250,000*	210,000*
Luisita Golf	400,000	-
Manila Golf Ind/Corp*	-	10,500,000
Manila Polo	-	2,350,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	420,000	570,000*
Makati Sports Club	210,000	180,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	150,000	90,000/100,000*
Mimosa C2/C3*	230,000	250,000*
Mimosa Golf Ind.	180,000	140,000
Mt. Malarayat B	-	260,000
Orchard A/B*/C**	-	160,000/280,000*/Pls Call
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	130,000/160,000*/180,000**	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	300,000	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	Pls Call	-
Sherwood A/B*	60,000	-
Spa & Lodge	650,000	530,000
Sta. Elena Golf	1,600,000	-
The Palms Country Club	Pls Call	-
Tagaytay Country Club	-	350,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	670,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Valle Verde Ind	-	130,000
Wack Wack Golf	6,800,000	6,500,000

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	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang Country Club "A"	-	1.1M
Alabang Country Club "B"		1.150M
Baguio Country Club	650K	
Canlubang Golf Club	-	400K
Eagleridge Golf Club "A"	220K	
Eagleridge Golf Club "B"	290K	
Eastridge Golf Club "B"	120K	
Makati Sports Club "A"	please call	
Manila Golf Club - Ind	11.2M	10.8M
Manila Polo Club	-	2.350M
Manila Southwoods "A"	350K	
Manila Southwoods "B"	650K	
Metro Club "A"		120K
Mt. Malarayat "B"		please call
Mt. Malarayat "C"	-	please call
Orchard Golf Club "A"	please call	
Orchard Golf Club "B"	please call	
Orchard Golf Club "C"	please call	
Punta Fuego	580K	please call
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	165K	
Rockwell Club	300K	
Sta. Elena Golf Club "A"	1.7M	please call
Sta. Elena Golf Club "B"		please call
Tagaytay Country Club		350K
Tagaytay Higlands Golf Club		750K
Tagaytay Midlands		675K
Valley Golf Club	270K	
Wack Wack Golf Club	please call	6.5M

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1:30-2:50 • Distinct Filipino Image in the Fashion Industry
• Government Policies and Programs (GARMENTS)
• Branding: Uplifting Philippine Products (FOOTWEAR)
2:50-3:40 • Networking / Afternoon Cocktails / Chorale Serenade
3:40-5:00 • Opportunities and Risks in FINANCING Fashion
• JEWELRY: When will the glitter show?
• PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS: P100 Billion Sales (More than medical care)
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Air Philippines plans to go public in 2 to 3 yrs

By Clarissa S. Batino

AIR Philippines Corp. of Lucio Tan said it was considering a public listing in two years if it would start making profit this year and maintain a three-year record of profitability, as required by the stock exchange.

"If we will be able to meet that requirement, we will consider an IPO (initial public offering) in two to three years," said Air Philippines president Jaime Bautista.

This profitability track record requirement had kept flag carrier Philippine Airlines unlisted. There were, however, talks that PAL would just use one of the listed companies owned by the taipan as a vehicle to raise funds through the stock market.

Air Philippines is 99 percent owned by the group of the taipan. PAL is also about 95 percent owned by the tobacco tycoon.

However, the companies listed as owners of the two companies were different. This made PAL and Air Philippines not inter-related. This means they are not covered by the chain-listing rule, which prohibits subsidiaries of a listed company from going public.

Air Philippines has been a losing company but this year, Bautista said the airline should be able turn around its operations and hit a profit of about P100 million. Last year's net loss was about P100 million.

The country's third-largest carrier had rationalized its operations this year by increasing flights to profitable routes and cutting operations in less profitable destinations, he said.

The company is challenging the dominance of Gokongwei firm Cebu Air Pacific in the low-cost market. Embarking on a re-imaging program, Air Philippines said it wanted to be the preferred low-cost carrier in the country by 2005.

Aside from the re-fleeting of its 8-aircraft fleet, which will be completed this month, the company is also planning to acquire 40-seater aircraft by 2005 so it could fly to minor routes.

Bautista said the company was studying whether it was feasible to operate turbo-propeller airplanes on top of its current fleet of 118-seater aircraft.

Air Philippines is planning to use the smaller planes in flying to Batanes, Romblon and Catanduanes. Bautista said operating smaller airplanes would allow the company to compete with the likes of Asian Spirit and Southeast Asian Airlines.

Bautista said the company would only expand to include smaller aircraft and venture into new routes if the plan would be proven profitable.

"We are in the business of flying equitable routes. If we will not make money, then we will not fly," said the Air Philippines president.

He said another consideration was the demand in a particular route. Bautista said that local carriers cooperate in ensuring that no particular destination would be clogged with empty flights.

"There is some sort of an agreement among the airlines that we only add flights to a destination when there is demand," the official added.

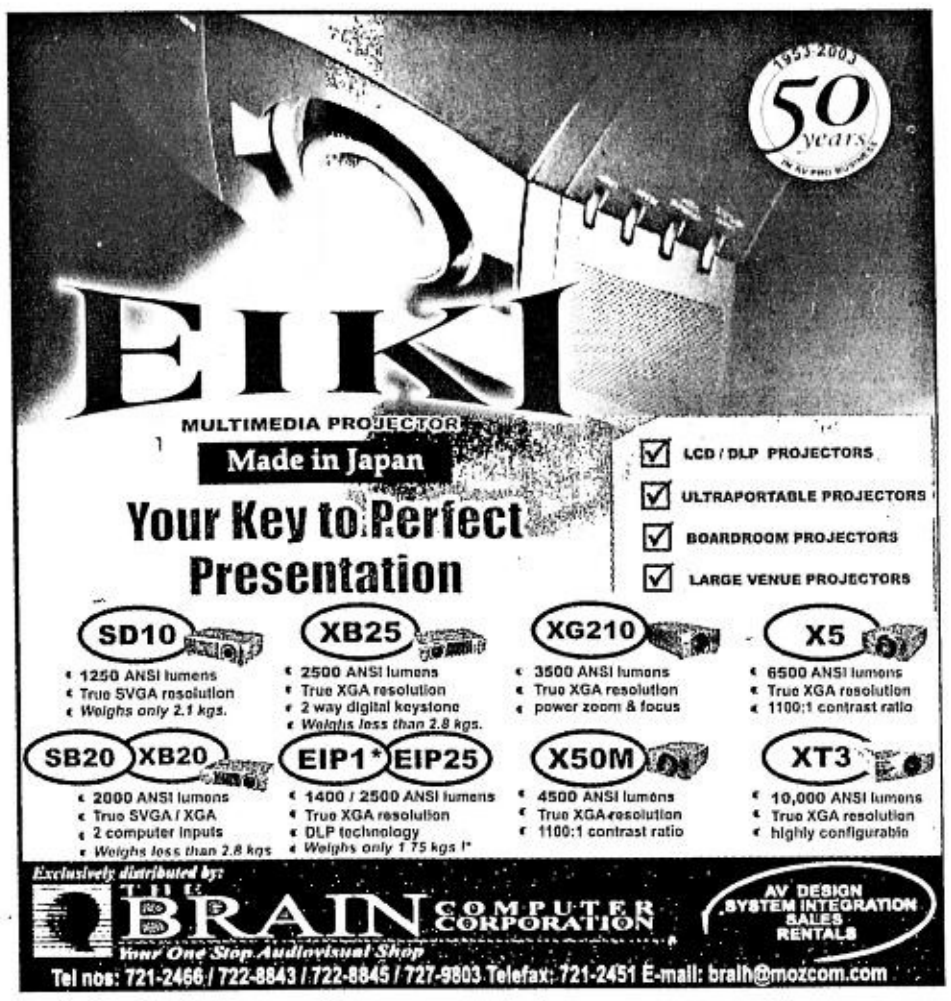
Air Philippines had reduced its Manila to Cebu flights but it increased flights from Cebu to certain areas such as Dumaguete, Iloilo, General Santos and Davao. He said a flight from Cebu to Puerto Princesa in Palawan was being eyed.

Preparations are being made to launch flights to Zamboanga from Cebu and Davao, Bautista added. For its overseas scheduled air transport services, Air Philippines will soon fly to Chengdu and Shenshen in China.

Plastics king William Gatchalian used to own Air Philippines but he sold 70 percent of the company to Tan. Bautista said that two years ago, the company underwent reorganization, wherein it reduced its par value but increased its paid-up capital.

Air Philippines issued new shares to raise about P2 billion. Gatchalian did not participate in the capital call, diluting his ownership to only about one percent.

The company's aggressive business stance was adopted following the renewal of its authority to operate scheduled air transport services by the Civil Aeronautics Board.



Danilo Suarez's tax break for texters

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

REP. Danilo Suarez said in a recent TV talk show that he had filed a bill that would give texters a tax break. Under his bill, the telecom industry will be liberated from the onerous 10-percent value-added tax and will, instead, be slapped a lighter 7-percent franchise tax. The texters seem ecstatic. They shouldn't be.

I can calmly look into this planned tax break because I belong to a vanishing breed: I do not own or use a cell phone. Twice, my daughter Clarissa gave me a cell phone, but she had to take them back because I hardly used them. I never wanted anybody to call me when I was with a client or with my drinking buddies. I did not want to use the cell phone while driving. At the house or in the office, I used the landline phone. And I could do without all those corny jokes.

The telecom company sends the texter a monthly statement of account, which indicates all toll charges for the month. On top of the charges is the 10-percent VAT. If the VAT is not shown as a separate amount, the tax code assumes that the tax is built into the toll charges. The VAT is then computed at one-eleventh of the toll charges. The same thing happens when you buy a cell phone card. This VAT is the output tax.

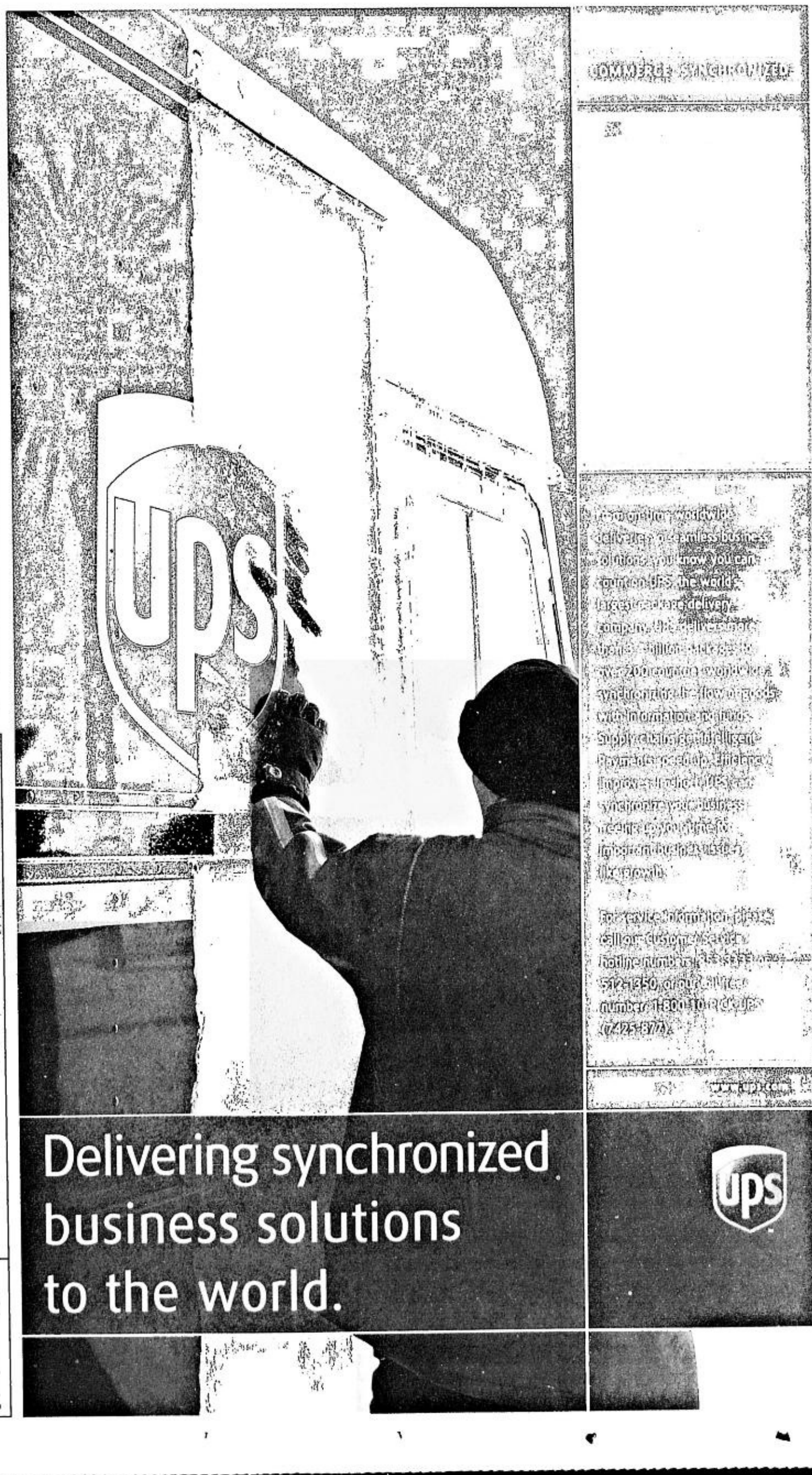
Notice that the output VAT is really a consumption tax. The more the texter uses his cell phone, the more VAT he pays. So, the idea of taxing text messages, which created a lot of furor among texters, was totally unnecessary.

The telecom company does not send the entire output tax to the BIR. From the output tax is deducted the input tax. The input tax is the VAT that the telecom company pays on its importation and local purchases. The suppliers, in turn, remit the VAT to the BIR.

The telecom company does not cheat when the input VAT is deducted. But it does cheat if the input tax is inflated. To do this, the company will have to fake suppliers' receipts and/or find a friendly tax examiner. But this is not the fault of the VAT system. People will tend to cheat under any tax system.

As in the VAT system, the franchise tax is slapped on the gross sales. But the telecom company cannot deduct the input tax from the franchise tax. So, the input tax is added to the gross sales. As a result, the texter pays a 7-percent franchise tax on the input tax. This is double taxation.

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES/ B8



Flying V launches diesel additive

By Abigail L. Ho

IN RESPONSE to President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for the mass use of coconut-based additives to diesel, new oil player Flying V last month launched a fuel additive derived from coco methyl ester (CME).

Flying V's Envirotek Bioactiv BD-100+ is a fuel additive that can be added directly to diesel fuel in a vehicle tank without modifying the engine.

The oil firm said in a statement that the new product could reduce vehicle emissions while upgrading engine performance by increasing the cetane content of diesel.

It also aims to protect the engine and help the vehicle owner save on fuel.

The government, through the Malacañang-issued Memorandum Circular 55, is mandating the use of CME-blended diesel for at least one percent of the diesel requirements of all government agencies and companies.

In a recent speech, Ms Arroyo said the implementation of the government's coco diesel program should be accelerated.

She said the mass use of CME-blended diesel should reduce the country's dependence on fuel imports.

"Nationwide implementation of 1-5 percent coco biodiesel to be implemented by 2006 to 2014 will decrease imported fuel dependency by 3 percent," she said.

She added that coco diesel use should also create more jobs as well as generate more income for the country's coconut farmers.

Air quality also stood to improve, resulting in a healthier environment for Filipinos, she said.

The Department of Energy, industry stakeholders and even the United States Department of Energy-National Renewable Energy Laboratory are currently conducting some tests on the technical and financial feasibility of using coco diesel.

The US DOE tests started this quarter and would likely be completed within the next six months.

Apart from coco diesel, the government is also pushing for the use of other transport fuel alternatives, in light of the spiraling costs of oil in the world market.

These alternative fuels include compressed natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas and the agricultural product-based ethanol.

BOI ordered to help boost capital market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

IN LINE with efforts to boost the capital market, the Board of Investments will review its roster of enterprises to determine which ones are due to sell at least 10 percent of their shares to the public, as required.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said he had ordered the BOI to undertake the review and to urge BOI-listed enterprises to fulfill their obligation.

Under Executive Order No. 226 or the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, BOI-listed firms are required to be 10-percent publicly owned within 10 years upon registration.

The rule on public participation provides that the shares of BOI-registered firms can be sold to local and foreign investors and that the period of public offering should be at least six months from date of publication of the offer.

"There are only about 200 firms listed at the Philippine Stock Exchange and there are over 5,000 enterprises registered with the BOI," Purisima said. "This is a great opportunity to help develop the capital market."

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez, who is also BOI managing head, said some BOI-listed firms had already complied with the rule and were now listed with the PSE.

However, Hernandez said the BOI was discussing with the PSE the possibility of making a separate rule for BOI-listed firms.

"Many BOI-listed firms may not be qualified under the PSE's listing requirement," the official said. "Maybe we can have special rules for such enterprises to allow their listing."

He said the BOI was still determining the sanctions that would be slapped on firms that failed to comply with the requirement.

"But the current approach (to noncompliance) is the possible cancellation of registration," he added.

The rule on public participation provides a deferment of compliance, on a case-to-case basis, to pioneer enterprises; those in financial distress, and others deemed no ready due to their unique situations.

We, the deaf-mute employees of Lamoiyan Corporation, who make up one-fifth of our company's workforce, along with hundreds of other hearing-impaired individuals, humbly thank the **Ateneo de Manila University for honoring MR. CECILIO K. PEDRO, Chairman of Lamoiyan Corporation and the Deaf Evangelistic Alliance Foundation, Inc. (D.E.A.F.), with the OZANAM AWARD for 2004.**

The Ateneo has been giving the Ozanam Award since 1937 to persons who have given distinctive and continued service to their fellowmen in accordance with the principles of Justice and Charity. Through his unstinting efforts to provide the hearing-impaired with quality college education and employment, Mr. Pedro has lived up to the social teachings of the Church.

LAMOIYAN CORPORATION
Making the difference for the glory of God

Rockwell sees 18% growth in profit this year

ROCKWELL Land is expecting an 18-percent growth in its profit this year from last year's level.

Company CEO Nestor Padilla said the profit projection was based on the 45-percent growth in revenue posted in the first six months of the year.

The increasing revenues of the Power Plant Mall and the condominium units will allow the company substantial improvement in its cash level.

With the projected profit for the year, the company will be able to attain its goal of cutting by 70 percent its debt level by 2005.

"Rockwell sees stronger bottomline by 2005. We are specifically looking at keeping our earnings momentum given the 97-percent occupancy rate of the Power Plant Mall and the record sales figures of our residential projects," said Padilla.

Last year, Rockwell Land reported a net income of P150 million. This year, the company is expecting a profit of P380 million to P370 million.

Padilla disclosed that The Manansala, its fifth residential project at the Rockwell Center, was already 99-percent sold. Rockwell Land recently marked the structural completion of The Manansala three months ahead of schedule. The Manansala is a 38- and 41-story twin tower residential development.

According to Padilla, the completion of The Manansala was originally set for December 2005, but since the construction of the super structure started in March of 2003, a strict timeline of six days for each floor being poured on the building was followed.

"The Manansala was going up one floor every six days, speeding up its completion to September 2005, three months earlier than its expected completion," said Padilla.

Padilla added contractors and subcontractors hired by the company covered every safety compliance issue during the construction.

Questions of Policies

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Let me put some figures to make things clearer. Let us assume that, under the VAT system, the telecom company registers a gross sale of P1,000, on which is slapped the 10 percent VAT, bringing the total paid by the texter to P1,100. Let us also assume that, included in the P1,000 gross sale are local purchases and importation of P400, on which the telecom company paid P40 VAT.

The telecom company sends to the BIR P100 less P40, or a net of P60. Notice that the company's supplier probably sent to the BIR the P40 paid by the telecom company long before the texter paid his invoice. In other words, the BIR receives the P100 VAT from two sources: P60 from the telecom company and P40 from the supplier. There is no double taxation.

Under the franchise tax system, the VAT of P40 cannot be deducted from the franchise tax. So, the telecom company finds some way to add it to the gross sale, bringing the total to P1,040. The texter pays P1,040 plus 7 percent, or a total of P1,112.80. Thus, he pays P12.80 more than under the VAT system. This is the result of double taxation. Also, the bigger the local purchases and importation as components of the gross sales, the higher will be the tax increase.

But the texter will howl, "Why pass on the VAT to me?" Because, in any kind of a sale, the buyer pays for everything. The seller has to recover all his costs, including taxes, and make a profit as well.

To give the texter a real tax break under the franchise tax system, the P400 in local purchases and importation will have to be exempted from the VAT. But this creates another problem. The supplier surely makes certain purchases on which he pays VAT. These purchases will also have to be VAT-exempt, and so on down the purchasing chain.

But a real tax break will go against Malacañang's push for more taxes. Besides, can you imagine the BIR's administrative nightmare?

The franchise tax idea is a tax increase. Okay, all you texters, back to the barricades!

BEST EQUITY HOUSE IN RP
ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. recently has been named the "Best Equity House in the Philippines" by FinanceAsia during the annual Country Awards for Achievement 2004. From left, ATRKE chair Ramon B. Arnaiz and ATRKE managing director Diosdado M. Macapagal Jr. join FinanceAsia managing director Jonathan Hirst, ATRKE Securities president Lorenzo T. Roxas and ATRKE Capital president Manuel N. Tordesillas.

Palace eyes revenue task force

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ARROYO administration is not leaving the passage of its revenue measures to chance. It would soon create a task force that would ensure the passage of most, if not all, of the much-needed measures.

During a recent meeting, the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) agreed to form the so-called Task Force on Revenue Legislation.

Part of the functions of the task force would be to decide how the revenue measures could be enhanced so that legislators would approve them, and the selection of priority bills for lobbying.

Ledac is chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo, and was created through Republic Act No. 7640. It is composed of her economic team, headed by National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) Director General Romulo Neri, and representatives of Congress.

In a statement, Neda said the Ledac has agreed that the chairs of the Senate and House committees on ways and means would regularly meet to harmonize their respective versions of the bills on the revenue measures.

The Ledac has initially agreed during the meeting that four of the eight revenue measures shall be prioritized. These were: tax amnesty, indexation to inflation of excise tax on alcohol and cigarettes, rationalization of fiscal incentives, and increasing the excise tax on petroleum products.

Under the tax amnesty proposal, delinquent taxpayers, especially underground businesses, will be encouraged to become legitimate by granting them immunity from charges and by making them pay on a small portion of their unpaid tax liabilities.

The proposal will also require all taxpayers—corporate and individuals alike—to submit statements of assets and liabilities. The SALs will be the basis of the government in determining one's future tax liabilities.

The indexation of sin taxes to inflation will allow an automatic and regular increase of excise tax. This will address what the government calls the obsolete excise tax rates and the dwindling share of taxes from sales of cigarettes and alcohol because of increase in the products' prices.

Under the proposed rationalization of fiscal incentives that government grants to businesses, some of the tax perks and duty-free privileges available in the country will be withdrawn to reduce revenue losses.

Also, the increase in petroleum taxes is intended to address the obsolete tax rates. The DOF is proposing a P2 increase in all petroleum products except for liquefied petroleum gas, which is considered a socially sensitive product.

Initial estimate from the DOF show that this measure is expected to generate an additional revenue of P29.7 billion a year.

The revenue measures are estimated to generate a total of P80 billion yearly. They are intended to address the government's gaping budget deficit and avert a looming fiscal crisis.

BSP lays down new rules for non-banks

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has issued a new circular requiring non-bank financial institutions with quasi-banking operations to tap accredited third party securities custodians.

The requirement is in line with the BSP's efforts to boost the transparency of local securities transactions.

"The same rules applying to the banks shall now apply to non-banks as well," said Alberto Reyes, BSP deputy governor for bank supervision.

Quasi-banks are those that engage in obtaining funds other than deposits from more than 19 creditors for the purpose of relending. These include investment houses and financing companies.

The circular said all securities, warehouse receipts, quedans and other documents of title, which are the subject of quasi-banking functions such as repurchase agreements, should be physically delivered to the BSP-accredited custodian.

According to the BSP, the delivery shall be made by means of book-entry transfer to the custodian while the overlying principal borrowing instrument shall be physically delivered to the lender or purchaser.

"The custodian shall hold the securities in the name of the borrower/seller, but shall keep said securities segregated from the regular securities account of the borrower or seller if the latter had an existing account with the custodian," the circular said.

The BSP plans to accredit only five or six banks or non-bank financial institutions to act as securities custodians in the country. It has so far given such licenses to HSBC, Citibank and Bank of the Philippine Islands.

A securities custodian safeguards the securities of the client, holds title to the securities in a nominee capacity, executes purchase or sale orders, represents clients in corporate actions and conducts mark-to-market valuation, among others.

The tighter policy on custodianship is in line with the BSP's policy "to promote the protection of investors in order to gain their confidence and encourage their participation in the development of the domestic capital market."

Based on an earlier BSP circular, banks and non-bank financial institutions may only act as securities custodian and/or registry upon prior approval of the Monetary Board.

Only BSP-supervised banks or non-bank financial institutions which had complied with the minimum capital accounts would be qualified to apply for these functions.

PSALM urged to stick to privatization plan

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) should stick to a more concrete schedule with regard to the privatization of the National Power Corp.'s generation assets so as not to confuse potential investors, an industry executive said.

Francisco Viray, former energy secretary and Philippine Investment Management Corp. senior vice president, said the constant changing of power plant bidding schedules was making it difficult for investors to plan their moves, as far as participating in the auctions was concerned.

"PSALM should stick to a schedule," Viray said. "They keep moving (the schedule) around that it has become confusing for investors. The private sector can't really plan their moves."

He said the government should not be afraid of failed bidding. If one plant had been scheduled to be auctioned off at a particular time, then PSALM should push through with it, provided that at least two bidders were participating.

The Napocor genco bidding schedule had changed at least twice since PSALM unveiled the auction schedule for 35 of the state firm's plants early this year.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez defended these schedule changes, saying PSALM was only responding to feedback from investors.

"The revisions were based on feedbacks from investors," Perez said. "The schedule of plants will remain flexible."

The last schedule change, which Perez announced last Aug. 18, also entailed a change in some of the genco groupings that the Joint Congressional Power Commission had approved in December last year.

The JCPC questioned this change in groupings, from the original eight groups composed of 17 plants plus 18 individual plants, to six groups composed of 13 plants plus 19 individual plants.

The changes did not have JCPC approval, according to Rep. Alipio Cirilo Badelle, JCPC co-chair.

Telcos to route all promos to special 4-digit number

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has said it would soon order telecom companies to route all text promos and raffles to a special four-digit number that would allow the public to distinguish text scams from the genuine promos.

"We will be coming up with a circular that will require carriers to direct all promo raffles to a 4-digit premium number to help prevent text scams from proliferating," said NTC chair Ronald Solis.

He said a memorandum of agreement would also be forged with other agencies like the Anti-Money Laundering Council, the trade department, the finance department and even the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. The National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police would also be invited to join the interagency team.

Solis stressed, however, that the special numbers for text promos would be different from the centralized set of numbers that the Pagcor had requested to regulate text gaming.

The Pagcor has a pending request for a special set of numbers where text games would have to pass through so that the government could collect its 20 percent revenue share from the phone companies.

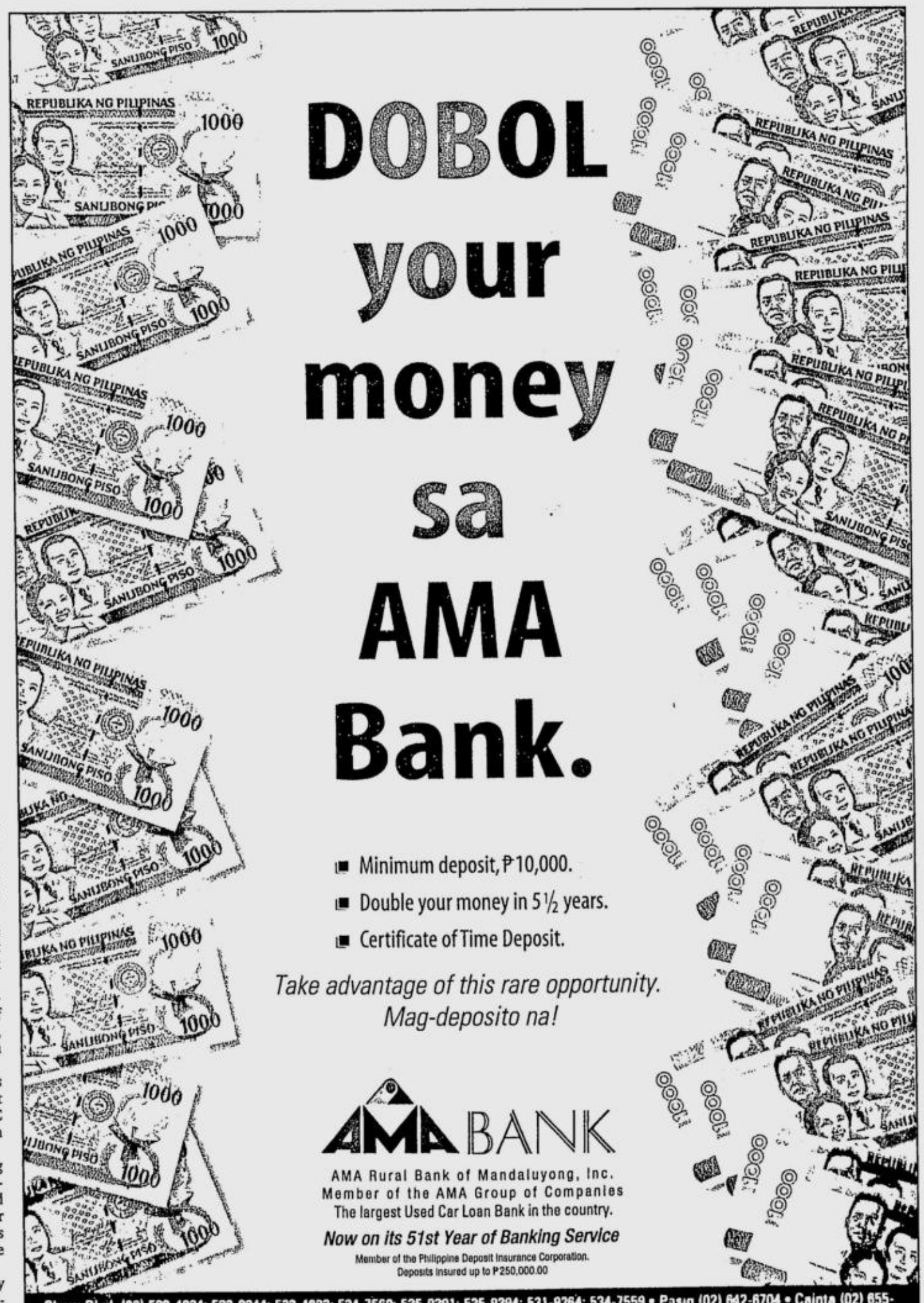
"We would also hold a massive information campaign to fight text scams," Solis said. We would enlist the help of the KBP and the PIA."

The Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas is a grouping of radio and television companies, while the Philippine Information Agency is a state-run media outfit.

The NTC said that text scams have become rampant in the last 2 years. Last year alone, the NTC received 487 complaints from victims of text scams.

The Anti Money Laundering Council earlier said that it had received numerous complaints and that, easily, P5 million last year had been squeezed from victims of fraud committed over mobile phones.

In case of fraud, people may lodge their complaint to the following numbers: DTI at 8977384; NTC text 682 or call 9267722; AMLC at 5367358.



DA to set up unit to monitor RP food exports

By Christine A Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture would soon revive the multi-sectoral organization that would ensure the country's compliance with global food safety requirements and elevate Philippine food exports to world-class standards.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap is now assessing the proposal that would create the ad hoc committee which, in turn, would establish legal and administrative mechanisms for the revival of the National Codex Organization (NCO).

The Department of Agriculture (DA) had issued special order 307, authorizing the ad hoc committee to identify the members of the NCO and verify the recommendations.

The DA's attached agency, the National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC), pushed for the restoration of the NCO as local food exports face the grim prospect of losing its dollar-generating agriculture and fishery exports because of the tightening of global food security regulations.

The NCO has been dormant for four years. It used to monitor all relevant food safety regulations being imposed by international bodies such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO).

The NCO served as an advisory body on food standardization and control issues, based on CAC issuances. The NCO would also prepare the country's official stand on all matters pertaining to new food standards set by the two agencies. It would also lobby against moves to impose non-tariff barriers to the country's agriculture and fishery exports.

The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards, National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Philippine Coconut Authority, National Food Authority's Food Development Center (FDC), Bureau of Animal Industry, Bureau of Plant Industry and the Bureau of Food and Drugs Administration, would comprise the government inter-agency organization.

DA officials earlier said that the re-establishment of the NCO would boost government efforts to consolidate its resources to fend off non-tariff barriers being imposed by the United States and the European Union.

"The revival of the NCO is significant because it comes at a difficult time when the Philippines' processed food exports are facing increasingly stiff food regulations imposed by importing countries," said Pete Borja, chair of the NAFC committee on fisheries and aquaculture.

RP poultry flies solo in flu-stricken Asia

THE PHILIPPINES may be the only remaining Asian exporter of poultry that is certified free of the lethal bird flu strain, according to the Department of Agriculture.

DA officials on Friday said the latest avian flu outbreak was reported on the border of Malaysia and Thailand. The outbreak prompted Philippine agriculture authorities to impose an indefinite ban on the importation of chicken, poultry products and pet birds from Malaysia.

However, the Malaysian province of Sabah—which is close to the southern tip of the Philippines—is still free of the virus.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said that the agency is now working over time to make sure that the country remains free of the avian flu virus that has rampaged across Asia since December 2003. According to authorities, the flu still has not been permanently contained.

Aside from the Philippines, Brunei and Singapore remain free of the avian flu. Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Japan, Taiwan, part of the United States, and the state of British Columbia in Canada have all reported outbreaks of the flu virus, which has been proven to be lethal to humans.

Yap said its attached agency—the Bureau of Animal Industry—has increased its monitoring and surveillance of smuggled poultry and pet birds from infected Asian countries.

"We are coordinating with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources because the bird flu virus can also be passed on to humans through pets, such as love birds," said Jose Molina, Bureau of Animal Industry director.

According to Molina, they are also closely monitoring the flight of migratory birds, which are potential carriers of the virus.

The BAI is implementing an emergency preparedness program, in coordination wih the DA and the Department of Health, to closely monitor 20 priority areas including the Candaba swamp in Pampanga, Olango Island in Cebu and the Liguasan marsh in Maguindanao.

"We want to keep a tight watch in the Southern backdoor to prevent the entry of smuggled poultry and poultry products," said Molina.

He added that the DA and private sector are about to put up diagnostic laboratories in case the virus reaches Philippine shores.

"We would not want to be complacent in our bird-flu prevention drive so that our poultry sector will not be undermined but, instead, become world-class and competitive," Molina said.

Since the bird flu menace, other Asian countries have expressed interest in importing chicken and chicken products from the Philippines.

The country has been supplying poultry products to Japan in recent months. Brunei and Vietnam are also looking at the possibility of sourcing some of their chicken requirements from local producers.

The P96-billion Philippine poultry industry has so far remained free of the bird flu virus that has devastated 10 Asian nations and claimed 14 human lives so far.

In Vietnam alone, 12 people reportedly died of the virus. The flu also claimed millions of chicken in South Korea and Japan.

Officials of the World Health Organization have expressed growing concern for the avian flu. They fear that the virus would develop the ability to spread through human contact. They said humans have practically no defense against the disease.

Christine Gaylican

Government Service Insurance System
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

Congratulations to the

GSIS Scholars for School Year 2004-2005

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (12 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
BAYLON, Maricris Melisse G.	Actuarial Science	University of the Philippines – Diliman
CRISTOBAL, Ramon B.	BS Mathematics	University of the Philippines – Los Baños
CUEVAS, Mary Ann E.	BS Economics	University of the Philippines – Diliman
DOMINGO, Konde Luciano P.	Computer Engineering	Ateneo de Manila University
EMPLEO, Enrico Carlo C.	BS Mechanical Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman
IQUIN, Jerick C.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	University of Santo Tomas
LACSON, Carlos Miguel M.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Ateneo de Manila University
PUNSALAN, Mary Ann A.	BS Management Economics	Ateneo de Manila University
REYES, Jenina Marie D.	BS Statistics	De La Salle University
ROGEL, Edward Andrew P.	BS Management Engineering	Ateneo de Manila University
ROLLAN, Rhett Albert A.	BS Mathematics	University of the Philippines – Diliman
YAP, David B.	BS Statistics	University of the Philippines – Diliman

NORTH LUZON (5 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
BAGA, Aprian Marvin B.	BS Economics	University of the Philippines – Diliman
CARANDANG, Phrances Xharmagne C.	BS Information Technology	St. Louis University
CARANGUIAN, Luther Paul	DR. BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman
GARRIDO, Jerwin Demy E.	AB Mass Communications	University of the Philippines – Diliman
VELASQUEZ, Mon Ruiz S.	BS Electrical Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman

CENTRAL LUZON (4 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
AGARRADO, Mark Timothy S.	Computer Science	University of the Philippines – Los Baños
CAGUIMBAL, Emmanuel V.	BS Mechanical Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman
LEAL, Dan Rowen R.	BS Civil Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman
UMALI, Paolo Dominict E.	BS Applied Mathematics	University of the Philippines – Los Baños

SOUTH LUZON (4 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
DE LUMEN, Christine Alida A.	Management Info. Systens	Ateneo de Naga
ESTRADA, Erik John C.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman
JAIM, Mark Erben A.	BS Electrical Engineering	University of the Philippines – Los Baños
JOVEN, Rafael Francisco LL.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Ateneo de Naga

WESTERN VISAYAS (3 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
ANTONIO, Marianne T.	BS Accountancy	University of the Philippines – Iloilo
BAYAG, Ed Angelo C.	BS Applied Mathematics	University of the Philippines – Visayas
ESCLETO, Ceasar Ean S.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Mapua

EASTERN VISAYAS (4 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
BITOON, Criscelle Ann A.	BS Accountancy	University of San Carlos
PALGAN, Mae Emmeline	AB Mass Communications	University of the Philippines – Diliman
PO, Nenette Marie M.	BS Statistics	University of the Philippines – Visayas
TUTOR, Kristoffer T.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	University of San Carlos

DAVAO (4 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
ALLERA, Aril Jay E.	BS Accountancy	Ateneo de Davao
DATUKON, Norman Farrish A.	BS Accountancy	Ateneo de Davao
DINOPOL, Christine E.	BS Information Technology	Mindanao State University
LIPAE, Alexander Ian Y.	BS Civil Engineering	University of the Philippines – Los Baños

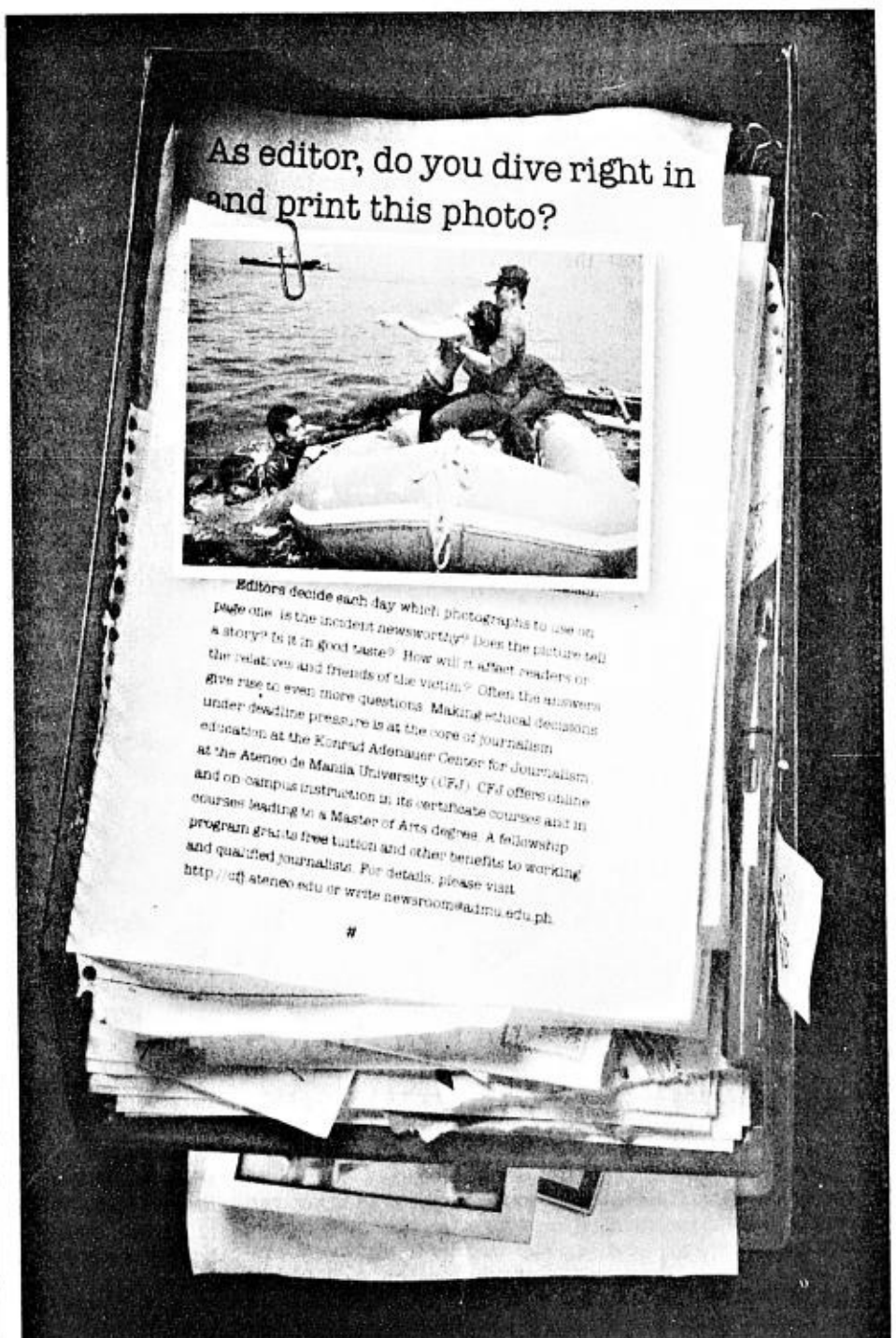
CAGAYAN DE ORO (3 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
JULIAN, Sebastian III D.	BS Computer Science	University of the Philippines – Dilima
MONARCA, Jeosid Dave L.	BS Accountancy	Xavier University
ROMUALDO, Kate Russel S.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Mindanao Polytechnic State College

ZAMBOANGA (2 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
AJERO, John Primer P.	BS Accountancy	Silliman University
JARON, Joe Darryl L.	BS Accountancy	Ateneo de Zamboanga

(PDI – August 1, 2, 7-9, 14-16, 21-23 & 28-30, 2004)



BIMP-Eaga lists 4 key industries

DAVAO CITY—The Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) has identified four priority industries as potential champions for small and medium enterprises.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Working Cluster identified these as halal poultry, business development services, oil palm and seaweeds industries.

The representatives agreed on a consolidated SME trading in a sub-region with certain countries taking the lead in industry development.

Brunei would take the lead in the development of Halal poultry, Indonesia for business development services and Malaysia for oil palm industry.

The seaweed industry development was entrusted to the Philippines, which said that it could spur the growth of SMEs.

In the Philippines, more than 99 percent of operating firms are classified as SMEs, and provide 70 percent of all jobs.

Director Merly Cruz of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in Southern Mindanao and Philippine head of delegation to the SME Cluster meeting, said that the Philippines' role as seaweeds champion would further strengthen the country's competitive edge in the sector.

The Philippines is one of the world's major suppliers of dried raw seaweeds and natural grade carageenan.

Cruz said the seaweeds industry, mainly established in Mindanao's coastal regions particularly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) area, is widely participated in by small and medium seaweed producers and processors. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

CA ruling warns abusive bus firms

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The Court of Appeals has ordered a bus company operating here to pay P120,000 in moral and exemplary damages for the abusive conduct committed by its employees against three passengers in 1993.

In a decision penned by Associate Justice Perlita Tria Tirona, the appellate court found Victory Liner Inc. liable for damages and affirmed the 1998 ruling of Judge Jose Rosales of the regional trial court here.

"This will serve as a warning to all entities in the transportation business to observe courtesy, good faith and due diligence in the fulfillment of their contractual obligations," the CA said.

The case stemmed from the damage suit filed against the bus firm by lawyer Basilio Rupisan, then provincial legal officer, his wife Carolina and mother-in-law Apolonia Parong in 1993.

According to court records, Rupisan and his companions were on their way home to Nueva Vizcaya from Metro Manila when they were accosted by a bus employee at the Victory Liner terminal in San Jose City, about midway into the six-hour trip.

The passengers had insisted that they had paid their fares before boarding at Victory Liner's Quezon City terminal, but due to a mix-up, their tickets were collected before the trip.

At the San Jose City terminal, a bus dispatcher ordered a company guard, armed with a shotgun, to take the passengers out of the bus if they refused to pay their fares. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Lot 2 - Resd'l Lot LA 492 sqm
L22 B26 Bayabas St., Amparo Subd
Minimum Bid Price P 757,680

LAS PIÑAS

Lot 3 - Resd'l Lot LA 2,492 sqm
L2-D Orchard Homes, Pulang Lupa I
Minimum Bid Price P 3,924,900

MAKATI

Resd'l Condo, West Tower, Pres S Osmeña Highway (South Superhighway) cor Hen G del Pilar Sts., Bangkal
Lot 4 - Unit 2005 FA 228 92 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 7,897,740
Lot 5 - Unit 2006 FA 219 38 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 7,568,610

Comm'l Condo, Tuscan Building, 114 Herrera St., Legaspi Village
Lot 6- Ground Flr., FA 517 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 21,714,000
Lot 7 - 6th Flr., FA 638 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 19,140,000

Comm'l Condo, Act Tower, Gil Puyat Ave Salcedo Village
Lot 8- Units A 4/F; FA 325 20 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 11,707,200
Lot 9- Units B 4/F. FA 280 53 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 10,099,080

Lot 10 - Comm'l Condo, FA 1,047 sqm
11/F BA LepantoCondo 8747PaseodeRoxas
Minimum Bid Price: P 52,350,000

Lot 11- Comm'l Condo, FA 855 57 sqm
Quadrants A-D 25/F Rufino PacificTower Herrera cor Ayala
Minimum Bid Price: P 41,067,360

MANILA

Lot 12 - Resd'l/ Comm'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 1,420 3sqm FA 1,420 25 sqm
4514 Valenzuela St., Sta. Mesa
Minimum Bid Price P 28,116,000

Lot 13 - Office Condo, FA 51 88 sqm
Unit 10-A 14/F, State Center Condo cor Juan Luna, Reyna, Ingresso & Muelle De Binondo Sts., Binondo
Minimum Bid Price P 1,348,880

PARAÑAQUE

Resd'l Lots, Cadena deAmor St, United Parañaque 4, San Dionisio
Lot 14 - L11 B14 LA 321 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,190,000
Lot 15 - L12 B14 LA 356 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,330,000

Lot 16-Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 800 sqm, FA 437 sqm
#61 Peter St., Multinational Village, Brgy La Huerta
Minimum Bid Price P 6,979,200

Resd' Condo, Makati South Hills Arcade, East Service Road, Brgy Balagbag
Lot 17- Unit 302 FA 107 35 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,824,950
Lot 18 - Unit 207 FA 68 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,168,750

Lot 19 -Resd'l Lot LA 600 sqm
L7 Blk5 Riyadh St., Multinational Village, Brgy La Huerta
Minimum Bid Price P 2,713,769

Lot 20 Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 280 sqm, FA 172 sqm
#14Gil Puyat St, BF Homes, San Dionisio
Minimum Bid Price P 3,258,536

PARAÑAQUE

Lot 21-Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 1,314 sqm
L4&5 Blk3 Luzon Ave., Mla. Marina Bay East, Brgy Tambo
Minimum Bid Price P 15,291,000

PASIG

Lot 22-Resd'l/ Comm'l Lot LA1193sqm
L3-F & 5 V Baltazar St., Brgy Palatiw
Minimum Bid Price P 6,680,800

Lot 23- Comm'l Condo, FA 128 99sqm
Unit 1204 Taipan Condo, Emerald Ave., Ortigas
Minimum Bid Price P 4,898,000

Lot 24 - Resd'l/ Comm'l Lot LA657sqm
L2 Commercio St., Kapasigan
Minimum Bid Price P 4,071,400

QUEZON CITY

Resd'l Condo, Tempus Place Condo 2, Maktarungan St, Bgy Central, Diliman
Lot 25- Unit 4-B, FA 56 50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,098,360
Lot 26 - Unit 4-E, FA 65 81 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,279,346
Lot 27 - Unit 4-F, FA 60 84 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,182,730

Lot 28- Comm'l Lot LA 1,806 sqm
187 Roosevelt Ave SanFranciscoDelMonte
Minimum Bid Price P 31,785,600

Lot 29 - Resd'l Twnhse, FA 147.97 sqm.
Unit 2 Mariposa Townhouse, #18 Mariposa St., Cubao
Minimum Bid Price P 3,189,000

Lot 30- Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 240 sqm, FA100 sqm
L13 Blk2 Urbien St., Jonaville Urbien Subd Brgy Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price P 612,000

VALENZUELA

Lot 31 - Resd'l Lot LA 382 sqm
L5 & 6 Blk6 Sampaguita St., Packweld Subd., Malinta
Minimum Bid Price P 534,800

Lot 32 - Resd'l/ Comm'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 772 sqm, FA 510 sqm
107 Dulong Tangke St., Brgy Malinta
Minimum Bid Price P 3,628,400

Lot 33 -Resd'l Lot LA 3,987 sqm
102 (Old) Pasolo Road, Brgy Pasolo
Minimum Bid Price P 7,575,300

BATANGAS

Lot 34 - Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 884sqm, FA 121 sqm
Hernandez St., Brgy II, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 2,228,800

Lot 35- Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt,
LA 540sqm
#64 Malvar St, Poblacion, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,227,500

Lot 36- Resd'l Lot LA 288 sqm
L24 B7Anastacia St., Villa Rosa Subd., Brgy Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 604,800

BULACAN

Lot 37-Resd'l/Comm'l Lot LA27,272sqm
Villarama St., Brgy Marungko, Angat
Minimum Bid Price P 11,454,100

Lot 38 - Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt,
LA 253 sqm, FA 85 sqm
L21 Blk1 Gold St., Carpa Village, Brgy Sabang, Baliuag
Minimum Bid Price P 790,500

Lot 39- Resd'l Lot, LA 2,200sqm
B S Aquino Est, Brgy San Roque, Baliuag
Minimum Bid Price P 1,980,000

BULACAN

Lot 40 - Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 120sqm
#33 Pearl St., Villa Cecilia Subd., Baliuag
Minimum Bid Price P 900,000

Lot 41 - Resd'l Lot LA 1,599 sqm
(Back of Public Market) Brgy Poblacion, Bustos
Minimum Bid Price P 1,439,100

Lot 42 - Comm'l Lot LA 2,118 sqm
(Beside Public Market) Brgy Poblacion, Bustos
Minimum Bid Price P 3,177,000

Lot 43 - Resd'l Lot LA 684 sqm
L31-34 Salcedo & Ma Socorro Sts., Green Breeze Village, Ph2 (Cityland), Brgy Pulong Buhangin, Sta Maria
Minimum Bid Price P 588,252

Lot 44 - Industr'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 9,096 sqm, FA 1,924sqm
L3 C. Mercado St., Brgy Tuktukan, Guiguinto
Minimum Bid Price P 15,544,000

Lot 45 - Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 424 sqm, FA 541 sqm
L35 Blk13 cor Duhat Road, Town & Country North Exec Vill Ph1, Brgy. Abangan Norte, Marilao
Minimum Bid Price P 3,816,000

Lot 46 - Industrial Lot LA 1,274 sqm
L4-A New York St., Meycauayan Industrial Subd Ph3, Brgy Pantok, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price P 3,510,125

Lot 47- Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 323 sqm, FA 247 sqm
#1Road Runner St., St Francis Subd., Brgy Pandayan, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price P 1,162,800

Lot 48- Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA1,162sqm, FA 168 sqm
Municipal Rd., Brgy San Roque, Baliuag
Minimum Bid Price P 1,648,990

CAVITE

Lot 49 - Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt,
LA 61 75 sqm, FA 28 sqm
L21 B14 Universal St., Armstrong Village, Brgy Salawag, Dasmariñas
Minimum Bid Price P 201,870

Lot 50- Resd'l Lot LA 177 sqm
L2 B25 New Bedford & Cambridge Sts, Metro South Subd., Brgy. Buenavista, Gen Trias
Minimum Bid Price P 354,000

LAGUNA

Lot 51 - Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 205 sqm, FA 135 sqm
L34 B14 Forest Drive cor Lakeside St., Country Homes, Brgy Soro-soro, Biñan
Minimum Bid Price P 861,000

Lot 52- Resd'l Lot LA 300 sqm
L23 B21 Rambutan St., Ceris II Subd., Brgy Canlubang
Minimum Bid Price P 600,000

Lot 53 - Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt,
LA 132 sqm, FA 84 sqm
L23 Blk18 Isarog St., San Jose Village III, Brgy Binang, Biñan
Minimum Bid Price P 897,480

Lot 54 -Resd'l Lots, LA180sqm
L26 B2 Ph1-C Annex San Lorenzo South Subd., Brgy Malitlit, Sta Rosa
Minimum Bid Price P 535,500

LAGUNA

Resd'l Lots, Laguna Hills, Brgy Bucal, Calamba
Lot 55 - L2 Blk 4 LA 496 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,507,840
Lot 56 - L50 Blk 14 LA 218 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 621,300
Lot 57 - L51 Blk 14 LA 218 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 621,300

Lot 58 - Comm'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 681 sqm, FA 604 sqm
L491 J Burgos St., Poblacion, Calamba
Minimum Bid Price P 8,717,000

Lot 59 - Resd'l/ Agri w/ Imprvmnt
LA 20,000 sqm, FA 108 sqm
L42 B-A-2 Curva, Sto Tomas, Calauan
Minimum Bid Price P 9,600,000

Resd'l Lots, Caliraya Springs Golf Club, Brgy Talaongan, Cavinti
Lot 60 - L 18 Blk 22 LA 727 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,504,890
Lot 61 - L19 Blk 22 LA 627 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,297,890
Lot 62 - L23Blk 23 LA 717 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,484,190

Resd'l Lots, Fontamara Subd., Brgy. Don Jose, Sta. Rosa
Lot 63 - L3 Blk1 LA 336 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,890,000
Lot 64 - L9 Blk1 LA 374 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,019,600
Lot 65 - L10 Blk1 LA 319 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,722,600

Resd'l Lots, La Marea Ph1, San Pedro
Lot 66 - L19 Blk8 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 855,000
Lot 67 - L20 Blk8 LA 135 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 769,500
Lot 68 - L21 Blk8 LA 135 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 769,500

Resd'l Lots, Town & Country Southville, Biñan
Lot 69 - L5 Blk31 LA 112 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 266,560
Lot 70 - L6 Blk31 LA 140 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 333,200
Lot 71 - L7 Blk31 LA 112 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 266,560

RIZAL

Lot 72 - Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 864 sqm, FA 166 sqm
L13 & 14 Blk10 Magsaysay Ave., Banker's Village III Ph2, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price P 1,928,000

Lot 73 - Resd'l w/ Imprvmnt
LA 240 sqm, FA 209 25 sqm
#49 Strawberry Lane Ph1-C Valley View Subd., Mayamot, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price P 1,800,000

Lot 74 - Resd'l Lot LA 400 sqm
L6-A & B Blk7 Abner St within Gloria Heights Subd., Brgy Dalig, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price P 800,000

Lot 75 - Resd'l Lot LA 320 sqm
L10 & 12 Blk13 Philadelphia St., Parkhills Exec Village Ph1, Brgy Inarawan/ San Isidro, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price P 560,000

Lot 76 - Resd'l Lot LA 592 sqm
L12 Blk8 Snowhill St Parkridge Estate Ph4, Mayamot, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price P 1,450,400

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PLDT goes slow on investments in Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) said the boom in the cellular phone business in Mindanao has caused it to be more conservative about putting new investments in its fixed phone lines in the island.

Mario Encarnacion, PLDT vice president for Mindanao, admitted that the increasing popularity of mobile communications and the emergence of competition put a big dent in the company's landline phone sales.

"The growth of the landline business has stayed stuck," he said.

Encarnacion said that because of the slow growth of PLDT's landline sales in Mindanao, the telecommunications giant put a cap on capital expenditures.

He did not specify how much the company had earmarked for Mindanao or how much it was willing to spend.

But Encarnacion said PLDT was confident that even with the cap on capital, their services in Mindanao would not be affected.

At least 14,000 fixed phone lines are still available to cover demand.

"With the 3 percent growth annually, it will take long to cover that (14,000 lines)," he said.

Encarnacion said the demand for landline service peaked in Mindanao in 1994-1995 with PLDT's ambitious zero backlog program.

The program generated about one million new subscribers all over the island, the second biggest in the country.

In 1998, following the deregulation of the telecommunications industry, Bayan Telecommunications and Philippine Telecommunications entered the landline market and wrested away a part of PLDT's target market.

Gilberto Ruiz, PLDT-Davao central manager, said that the company was now more concerned about maintaining the existing working lines, rather than expansion.

"We want to keep our number of subscribers, keep our subscribers satisfied with the rates. That's the vision we have for Mindanao," he said.

Ruiz added that additional lines would be rolled out only "if we see it necessary for our area to develop." *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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4. The customer can claim the discount within 60 days after the promo period.
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Oil traders keep eye on Iraq

NEW YORK—Oil prices made an about face Friday, falling below $48 a barrel, as tensions between US forces and rebel fighters in Iraq eased, raising hopes that attacks against the country's oil infrastructure would subside.

US light crude for September delivery dropped 84 cents to settle at $47.86 on the New York Mercantile Exchange, retreating from Thursday's record closing price of $48.70.

Crude futures have soared more than 50 percent in the past year, although when adjusted for inflation, oil is still roughly $9 less per barrel than it was leading up to the first Gulf War.

With the worldwide supply cushion razor thin at a time of robust demand, traders said oil markets would remain on edge for some time.

However, the prospect of an end to the 2-week-old anti-US uprising in Iraq gave reason for oil markets to take a breather from a rally that has caused prices to rise by about 30 percent in the past six weeks.

"If things are not getting worse in Iraq that means they are potentially getting better," said Dan Lippe, an analyst at the Houston-based consultancy Petral Worldwide.

With uncertainty in Iraq and Russia lingering, some traders have started to whisper about the possibility of $60 barrel if events take a turn for the worse in either place, even as the head of OPEC made soothing-but-vague comments about expectations of "a significant outcome" from its next meeting in September.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries President Purnomo Yusgiantoro said Friday in Jakarta: "I expect there will be a significant outcome from the meeting to overcome this big problem (of rising oil prices)."

The Saudis said earlier this month they were willing to put on the market an additional 1.3 million barrels per day, virtually all of their extra available production. *AP*

Wall St. rally hinges on oil

NEW YORK—Investors will watch for oil news from Russia and Iraq this week, but skepticism that crude prices can stay sky-high is growing and a break in the energy market would fuel a rally in US stock markets.

But volume should stay light, with investors reluctant to put money in the market ahead of the Republican National Convention, which begins in New York on Aug. 30.

But even as the convention looms, energy prices are still expected to be the market's primary focus.

Any relief from the prices, which are nearing $50 a barrel, would send stocks higher.

"If energy prices were to break, the equity markets would strengthen quite meaningfully," said Christine Callies, managing director and chief market strategist at Bessemer Trust, with $38 billion in assets under management. "We'd see a relief rally."

Stocks have been pressed as crude oil racks up record prices on a daily basis and approaches $50 a barrel.

But more stock market strategists and fund managers are questioning whether the supply and demand scenario can sustain such high prices.

Even as US oil notched a new record of $49.40 a barrel on Friday, stocks ended higher.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 2.9 percent for the week, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq ended up 4.6 percent for the week.

The broad Standard & Poor's 500 index finished the week up 3.2 percent.

"The oil problem is slowly being accepted," said Ralph Bloch, chief market analyst at Raymond James Associates. "Even when it hits $50 a barrel, the market may get shaken up a little bit and then the market will absorb it quickly."

Still, investors will be hungry for any news on the fate of Russia's major oil company Yukos or any news about attacks on pipelines in Iraq or other Middle East oil centers.

As the second-quarter earnings period winds down and few bellwether companies report earnings, additional attention will be focused on economic data.

The government will release revised numbers for second-quarter gross domestic product on Friday. Wall Street expects the government to show the economy grew at an annual rate of 2.8 percent, below the 3 percent pace previously reported.

Key companies reporting earnings next week include top toy chain Toys R Us Inc.

Toys R Us reports on Monday, while food company H.J. Heinz Co. and tax firm H&R Block Inc. report on Tuesday. *Reuters*

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OPENING CEREMONIES

Keynote Address

Mr. Tony Tan Caktiong
Chairman/CEO, Jollibee Foods Corporation

PLENARY SESSION 1

"Young Entrepreneurs in the Forefront of the Country's Development"

Ms. Teresita Sy-Coson
Executive Vice- President, SM Holdings, Inc.

Ms. Pacita U. Juan
CEO, Figaro Coffee Company

Mr. Jose Leo P. Caparas
General Manager, Union Square Enterprise

Mr. Nicolaas K. De Lange
President, Designs Ligna, Inc.

Mr. Jose Michael B. Gonzales
President, Agro Food Processing Development Corporation

SPECIAL PRESENTATION 1

" Food Fortification: Opportunities and Challenges at the Workplace"

Hon. Manuel M. Dayrit, MD
Secretary, Department of Health

PM Session

SPECIAL PRESENTATION 2

" Corporate Leadership in Population Management"

SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS

Topic 1: " Reforming the Labor Market for Employment and Competitiveness"

Hon. Patricia Sto. Tomas
Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment

Hon. Romulo L. Neri
Director-General, National Economic Development Authority

Hon. Roseller Barinaga
House of Representatives

Dr. Gerardo P. Sicat, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, School of Economics, University of the Philippines

Topic 2: "Gearing Education and Training Towards Full Employment"

Hon. Edilberto De Jesus
Secretary, Department of Education

Ms. Milagros Dawa- Hernandez
Deputy Director General for Policy & Planning, TESDA

Mr. Filemon Berba Jr.
Regent, University of the Philippines

Mr. Jose Ma. Concepcion III
President, RFM Corp.

Topic 3: "Revving Up SMEs for Job Creation"

Hon. Cesar V. Purisima
Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry

Mr. Jose Enrique Tanjangco
Owner, Anjo Farms Inc.

Mr. Alberto D. Lina
Chairman, Airfreight 2100, Inc.

SPECIAL FEATURES Jobs Fair

DAY 2 AUGUST 24 TUESDAY

AM Session

PLENARY 2

Presentation of Workshop Outputs

PLENARY 3

"Employment Impact of ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement"

Hon. Tomas G. Aquino
Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry

SPECIAL PRESENTATION 3

" A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All"

PM Session

CLOSING ADDRESS

His Excellency Noli De Castro
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Sanofi-Aventis 3rd biggest drug firm

PARIS—French pharmaceutical group Sanofi-Synthelabo on Friday formally announced the birth of Sanofi-Aventis, the world's third-largest pharmaceutical company, ranking number one in Europe.

Sanofi-Synthelabo said earlier this month it would push for 100 percent control of its former rival and newly-acquired subsidiary Aventis after the French Financial Market Authority confirmed the success of its controversial takeover offer.

Sanofi-Synthelabo now controls Aventis with 95.47 percent of the share capital.

As previously announced, Sanofi-Synthelabo officially changes its name to Sanofi-Aventis.

The new group, with a scientific research budget of 4.2 billion euros, came into being despite weeks of fierce opposition by Aventis after the French government threw its weight behind the takeover, declaring it in France's strategic interest.

The French government's interventionist attitude was awakened by interest shown in Aventis by the Swiss drugs giant Novartis.

It raised the ire of German officials and doubts about the devotion of French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin's cabinet to free-market practices common in other major economies. *AFP*

Google comes under review

NEW YORK—Google Inc. may have warned investors that it is does not intend to be a conventional company, but one convention it cannot avoid is being reviewed by stock research analysts.

ThinkEquity Partners LLC, Jefferies & Co., and American Technology Research have formally initiated coverage of Google, according to Reuters Estimates.

As of Friday—Google's second day of trading on the public markets—ThinkEquity Partners and Jefferies & Co. Inc. have a "buy" rating on the leading Internet search company, while American Technology Research has a "hold" rating on its shares.

Janco Partners Inc. has already put out a note on Google, and analyst Martin Pyykkonen said he intends to formally initiate coverage next week.

Mountain View, California-based Google has told investors that it does not intend to manage its business to meet quarterly market expectations.

"In Warren Buffett's words, 'We won't 'smooth' quarterly or annual results: If earnings figures are lumpy when they reach headquarters, they will be lumpy when they reach you'," Google's prospectus states.

But consensus estimates are already forming for Google's earnings.

According to Reuters Estimates, analysts, on average, currently expect Google to report third-quarter earnings per share of 36 cents on revenue of $724.2 million and fourth-quarter earnings per share of 42 cents on revenue of $786.8 million.

Google does not intend to give analysts much help when it comes to calculating their forecasts.

"Although we may discuss long-term trends in our business, we do not plan to give earnings guidance in the traditional sense," its filing states. "... A management team distracted by a series of short-term targets is as pointless as a dieter stepping on a scale every half hour."

On Friday, Google shares rose 6.5 percent to $106.87 in active afternoon trading on the Nasdaq following a market debut that sent its shares up 18 percent to $100.34.

Its IPO priced at $85 per share, which was below the initial estimate in the range of $108 to $135 each.

ThinkEquity's initiation note stated it was initiating Google with a "buy" rating and a price target of $120. *Reuters*

On her FIFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY, we lovingly remember MOMMY, WHO IS
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS...
SORELY MISSED BY ALL OF US.

ENCARNACION "NENA" LOVINA-TICZON

(*wife* of the late Philantropist, Corporate Lawyer **Atty. Romeo Reyes Ticzon, Sr.** and ***eldest daughter*** of the late Statesman, Banker, First Mayor of Pasay City, Founder of RFC now called Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Secretary of Labor (President Elpidio Quirino administration), Philippine Airlines (PAL) Chairman **Don Primitivo "Tibing" Lovina Sr.** and the late Philantropist **Doña Ruperta Herrero Lovina**)

1997 Gintong Sikap Awardee
(Federation of Filipino Consumers, Inc.)

1997 Gintong Ina Awardee
(Parangal ng Bayan Awards)

1997 Highest Achievement Awardee
(New Life on Family Development & Youth Council, Inc.)

1998 Golden Heart Public Service Awardee
(Development of Filipino Youth, Inc.)

who died in the Grace of our Lord on August 23, 1999 3:40 A.M. at Makati Medical Center at the age of 78.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches today, August 23, 2004

National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary ..... ***5:00 A.M.***
Sto. Domingo, Quezon City

Mt. Carmel Shrine ..... ***6:00 A.M.***
Doña J. Rodriguez Street, New Manila, Quezon City

St. Francis Parish Church ..... ***6:00 A.M.***
Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

Sanctuario de San Antonio ..... ***6:15 A.M.***
McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church ..... ***6:15 A.M.***
Magallanes Village, Makati City

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish ..... ***6:30 A.M.***
N. Garcia cor. Kalayaan Avenue, Bel-Air II, Makati City

Immaculate Concepcion Parish ..... ***6:30 A.M.***
P. Burgos Street, Antipolo, Rizal

Parish of Our Lady of Fatima ..... ***6:30 A.M.***
Rodriguez Avenue & Capinpin Street, Bangkal, Makati City

Redemptorist Church ..... ***6:45 A.M.***
Baclaran, Parañaque

St. John Bosco Parish ..... ***7:30 A.M.***
A. Arnaiz Ave., cor. Amorsolo St., Makati City

Harrison Plaza Chapel ..... ***12:00 N.N. & 5:30 P.M.***
Harrison Plaza Shopping City, Malate, Manila

Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene ..... ***5:00 P.M.***
Quiapo, Manila

Christ the King Parish ..... ***6:00 P.M.***
Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City

Malate Catholic Church ..... ***6:00 P.M.***
2000 M.H. Del Pilar, Malate, Manila

Mary the Queen Parish ..... ***6:00 P.M.***
Madison Street, Greenhills, San Juan

Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace ..... ***6:00 P.M.***
Our Lady of EDSA, Quezon City

Our Lady of Assumption Parish ..... ***6:15 P.M.***
Asuncion Street, Malate, Manila

Sanctuario de San Jose ..... ***6:15 P.M.***
Greenhills Mandaluyong City

Her CHILDREN, IN-LAWS, GRANDCHILDREN and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN,

- **JULIETA**
- **ROMEO, JR.** and LEONY DASCO and their children ROSSANA and LITO, ARLENE, VINCENT, ADOLF and JULIUS
- **OPHELIA** and BENNY T. CLEMENTE and their daughters JACLYN, RACHELLE and SUZANNE
- **OTHELLO** and LIZA ROÑO and their children RAYMOND, DR. MA. LUISA, MILAGROS, MELISSA ANN, grandchildren TANYA ISABEL, ROMEO RODRIGO III, and MIGUELA ISABELLE.
- **BELEN** and ANTONIO V. MARTEL, JR. and their daughter ANTONIA
- **ROSSINA**
- **LOURDES** and EDGAR MARTIN and their children MIGUEL, ANTONIO and DEIRDRÉ
- **PORTIA** and RAMON B. SANTOS and their children RAPHAEL, PAULINE and GABRIEL
- **RUBEN** (deceased),

STEPMOTHER, *NELLY MONTILLA VDA. DE LOVINA,*

BROTHERS, *TEDDY H. LOVINA and NONIE M. LOVINA,*

BROTHERS IN LAW, *BERT ACOSTA and CONRADO R. TICZON,*

SISTERS, *NING LOVINA-VILLAR and CHING LOVINA-ACOSTA,*

SISTERS IN LAW, *DING MATIAS VDA. DE LOVINA, SYLVIA RICARD-LOVINA, NORMA DE GUZMAN VDA. DE LOVINA ISABEL VALLES-LOVINA and MARYLOU PRIETO VDA. DE LOVINA*

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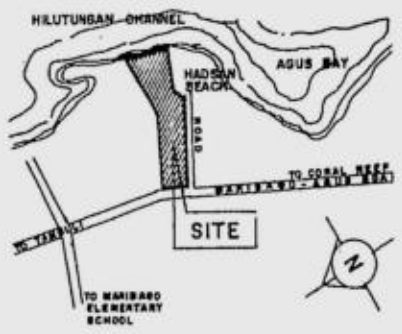

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2. Two (2) Townhouses
   Combined Area 208 sqm
   Location Ubas St., Town & Country Homes Phase II, Antipolo City
   Combined Price Php 2.4 million
3. Five (5) Vacant residential lots
   Area Lot 1 - 383 sqms
   Lot 2 - 383 sqms
   Lot 3 - 383 sqms
   Lot 4 - 375 sqms
   Lot 5 - 383 sqms
   Location Mayin-Maya Hills, Subd Brgy Balaytique, Nasugbu, Batangas
4. Residential/Commercial Vacant Lot
   Area 450 sqms
   Location Bo San Dionisio, Kay Biga, Parañaque City (very near the Parañaque City Hall)
   Price Php 2.3 million
5. Residential Lot
   Area 143 sqms
   Location ML Crest Subd Tandang Sora Quezon City
   Price Php 1.4 million
6. Two (2) Condominium Units (Residential)
   Area 104 sqms each
   Location Future Point Plaza 1, 112 Panay Avenue South Triangle, Quezon City
   Price Php 3 million each
   Unfurnished
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   Price Php 1.5 million
   Unfurnished
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HOUSE & LOT

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MANILA

SN ANDRES MANILA Brnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Brnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

Brnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

PARANAQUE

SBRMS/2TB SAV 1 8079279

PASIG

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Grnland 6br 4.5Mneg 0918-5864652

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QUEZON CITY

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5BR 4TB LA400 FA320 family rm cor 12M neg 0917-2760257

HOUSE & LOT

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MAKATI

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QUEZON CITY

Mindanao Av Bung 3BR 2TB w/grge P15T 9201768 Lading

T.SORA DFV QC 2BR 1TB P9T/mo 7312110 / 7312189

LAGUNA

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SAN JUAN

XAVIER GRENHILS 9318318

APARTMENT

MANILA

CONDO APT 5636296-5610197

MANDALUYONG

Busilak/Baranca Nr. Makati Bridge 2BR Grge 533-4786

QUEZON CITY

5 ILNOIS CUBAO U/D 2BR D'way Garage 0927-5349653

ROOM & BOARD

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MAYON NR RETIRO JOLLIBEE 2TB FA120 P22T/M 7312110/89

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BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
In Compliance with RA 7041

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION, ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION AND MONITORING OFFICE (PAMO) – ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

1. **GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER (GIO) III – Item No. GIO3-8-2003; SG-28;**
   Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 5 years of experience in practice of Law, counseling, investigation / prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative / cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) C – Item Nos. OMBA-GIO1-50-1998 and OMBA-G1O1-51-1998; SG-26 (2 Positions)

FIELD INVESTIGATION OFFICE – Item No. OMBA-GIO1-24-1998; OMBA-GI01-25-1998; OMBA-GIO1-26-1998; OMBA-GIO1-34-2003 and OMBA-GIO1-35-2003; SG-26 (5 Positions)

2. **GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER (GIPO) I**
   Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 3 years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)
3. **ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER III – Item Nos. OMBA-AGIO3-1-2003; OMBA-AGIO3-2-2003; OMBA-AGIO3-3-2003 and OMBA-AGIO3-4-2003; SG-22 (4 Positions)**
   Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: One year of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/ analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR); OR Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Two years of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: Sixteen hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Positions

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BUREAU

4. **GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I – Item Nos. OMBA-GIO1-69-1998 and OMBA-GIO1-70-1998; SG-26 (2 Positions)**
   Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 3 years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility RA 1080 (BAR); OR Education: master's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 5 years of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/ analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: 32 hours of relevant training; Eligibility; Career Service Professional/Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Positions
5. **ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER III – Item Nos. OMBA-AGIO3-5-1998; and OMBA-AGIO3-10-1998; SG-22 (2 Positions)**
   Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: One year of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work: Training: 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR); OR Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Two years of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/ analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: Sixteen hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Positions
6. **COMPUTER OPERATOR II – Item No. OMBA-COMPO2-1-1998; SG-9***
   Education: Completion of two years studies in College or High School Graduate with relevant vocational/trade course; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/Data Encoder (MC11, s. 96-Cat 1)/First Level Eligibility

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) B- Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-7-1998; SG-15

RESEARCH AND SPECIAL STUDIES BUREAU – Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-9-1998; SG-15

7. **ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I**
   Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR) OR Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Six months of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Positions

PLANNING AND BUDGET DIVISION (PBD)

8. **PLANNING ASSISTANT – OMBA-PLA-1-1998; SG-8**
   Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: One year of relevant experience; Training: Four hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Subprofessional)/First Level Eligibility

ACCOUNTING DIVISION

9. **ACCOUNTANT I – Item No. OMBA-A1-1-1998; SG-11***
   Education: Bachelor's degree in Commerce/ Business Administration major in Accounting; Experience: Non required; Training: None required; Eligibility: RA 1080 (CPA)
10. **ACCOUNTANT II – Item No. OMBA-A2-2-1998; SG-15***
    Education: Bachelor's degree in Commerce/ Business Administration major in Accounting; Experience: One year of relevant experience; Training: Four hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (CPA)

MONITORING AND EDP DIVISION (MED)

11. **COMPUTER PROGRAMMER III – Item No. OMBA-COMPRO3-I-1998; SG-18**
    Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 2 years of relevant experience; Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility
12. **COMPUTER PROGRAMMER II – Item No. OMBA-COMPRO2-2-1998; SG 15***
    Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility
13. **COMPUTER MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGIST II – Item No. OMBA-CTMT2-1-1998; SG-15***
    Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility
14. **PROJECT EVALUATION OFFICER II – Item No. OMBA-PEO2-1-1998; SG-15***
    Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility
15. **PROJECT EVALUATION ASSISTANT – Item No. OMBA-PEA-1-1998; SG-8***
    Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: One year of relevant experience; Training: Four hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Subprofessional)/First Level Eligibility

Interested applicants should submit applications within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resources Management Division, at the above address, the following: 1) an application letter stating the position/item applied for; 2) duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212); 3) 1" x 1" picture (colored); 4) BAR Rating/CSC Certificate of Eligibility; 5) Transcript of Records; 6) Certificate of Seminars/Trainings attended (CSC accredited) and 7) Certificate from previous/present employment/present employment stating the position, actual duties and responsibilities.

*This is a republication of the vacancies published on January 27, 2004 and February 14, 2004. Previous applications were already evaluated and processed. New applications will no longer be accepted.

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ESTER TOPACIO CELESTIAL

Former Trustee and Treasurer
July 14, 1913 - August 21, 2004

Her body lies in state at the Imus Unida Church, Gen. Castañeda St., Imus, Cavite.

Cremation follows at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque, after the Funeral Mass on Monday, August 23, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. at the Imus Unida Church, Gen. Castañeda St., Imus, Cavite.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

On August 21, 2004, our beloved Papa,

DOMINGO Y. ITCHON

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord.

His loving wife **Amy Saldaña Itchon**; children **Jojo** and **Lorelei, Nannie** and **Chito Gonzalez, Mickey, Tonet** and **Susan, Colette** and **Cooey la O', Agnes**; brother-in-law **Ben Saldaña** and grandchildren request for prayers for the repose of his soul.

His cremated remains will be at St. Jerome Emiliani Church, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City until Tuesday evening.

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 25, 2004 at St. James the Great Parish Church, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Please omit flowers, Donation may instead be made to the Foundation for Values Training, Inc. for the Tagaytay Conference Center.

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate; ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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"... Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Lord."
Matthew 25:21

Lina Florendo Rabor

has joined Papa and Ate Laly, on August 22, 2004 at the age of 92.

We praise and thank God for a life well lived. We love you, Mama. You will be most missed by **Dabol & Bulelang Rabor, Lecti & Teddy Santiago, Necta & Jun Fellizar, Ardee & Luis Tagarda, Karl & Bebing Rabor**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends, and by all of us whose lives you touched.

Her remains are now at the Church Among the Palms (CAP) Vigil Chapel, Kanluran Road, Los Baños, Laguna.

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 25, 2004 at MYL, Los Baños Memorial Garden, after the 9:00 a.m. necrological service.

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NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **IFC Development Corporation** (formerly: **Industrial Finance Corporation**) is in the process of reconstituting the list of its stockholders and their shareholdings in preparation for its liquidation and distribution of its remaining net assets following the revocation of its Certificate of Registration on May 26, 2004 by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Accordingly, all stockholders of IFC Development Corporation are requested to present their stock certificate/s for validation of their shareholdings in said corporation, not later than September 15, 2004, to:

Atty. Rosula P. Lawenko
IFC Development Corporation
7/F, Yuchengco Tower I,
RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue,
Makati City

(Sgd.) **SENEN D. BACCAY**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–Aug 23, 30 & Sept. 6, 2004)

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Quezon City

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

GENERAL MANAGER

FOR
Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(NORSAMELCO)
Catarman, Samar

Qualifications:
- Applicants must be at least 30 but not more than 55 years old
- College graduate in Business Management, Engineering, Accounting/Finance Management or Behavioral Sciences
- Postgraduate or Masteral Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years supervisory experience
- Must be willing to relocate with his family in the headquarters site of the cooperative

STARTING SALARY P30,000.00
Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application forms is on September 15, 2004.

(PDI - Aug 22 & 23, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
Quezon City

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

GENERAL MANAGER

FOR
Samar I Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(SAMELCO I)
Calbayog City

Qualifications:
- Applicants must be at least 30 but not more than 55 years old
- College graduate in Business Management, Engineering, Accounting/Finance Management or Behavioral Sciences
- Postgraduate or Masteral Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years supervisory experience
- Must be willing to relocate with his family in the headquarters site of the cooperative

STARTING SALARY P25,000.00
Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application forms is on September 15, 2004.

(PDI - Aug 22 & 23, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
NPC-MMSD 2004-105

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements.

Schedule	Date/ Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No./Inquiry No.	ABC
I	Sept. 7, 2004 10:00 AM Pahiyas Room	Mechanical Parts for Casiguran DPP "Cummins"	PB031204-MMAM9795 (PB2)	2,211,716.00
II		Mechanical Parts for Air Compressor of PB 105 "Daihatsu"	PB040907-MMAD1584	1,109,629.20
III		Overcurrent/Reclosing Protection Relay for WMTSD	PB040720-MMLD1241 (PB2)	2,550,000.00
IV	Sept. 7, 2004 2:00 P.M. Pahiyas Room	Mechanical Parts for Concepcion Diesel Plant "Dale Perkins"	PB040907-MMAM1585	1,111,410.00
V		Mechanical Parts for Polillo Diesel Plant "Perkins"	PB040907-MMSB1586	3,081,600.00
VI	Sept. 8, 2004 10:00 A.M. Pahiyas Room	Mechanical Parts for Marinawa Diesel Plant "CKD"	PB040908-MMAD1587	14,395,500.00
VII		Mechanical Parts for Marinawa Diesel Plant "GM"	PB040908-MMAD1588	4,011,000.00
VII		Supply for services, materials & equipment for the remanufacturing of Cylinder Heads & Liners and Turbochargers Gas Casing of PB 105	PB040908-MMAD1589	1,360,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
All Schedules	Aug. 26, 2004	2:00 P.M.	Peñafrancia Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division. Materials Management Dept., of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 9245357 / 9245477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 500.00 per schedule starting on August 16, 2004, from 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. only. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by PSD/MMSD will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184.

The bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee – One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **LORENZO S. MARCELO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI – August 16 & 23, 2004)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2004

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Editor Leo Magno

Design, engineering converge at Samsung

IT'S "SAVE YOUR HAIR MONTH" AT SVENSON!

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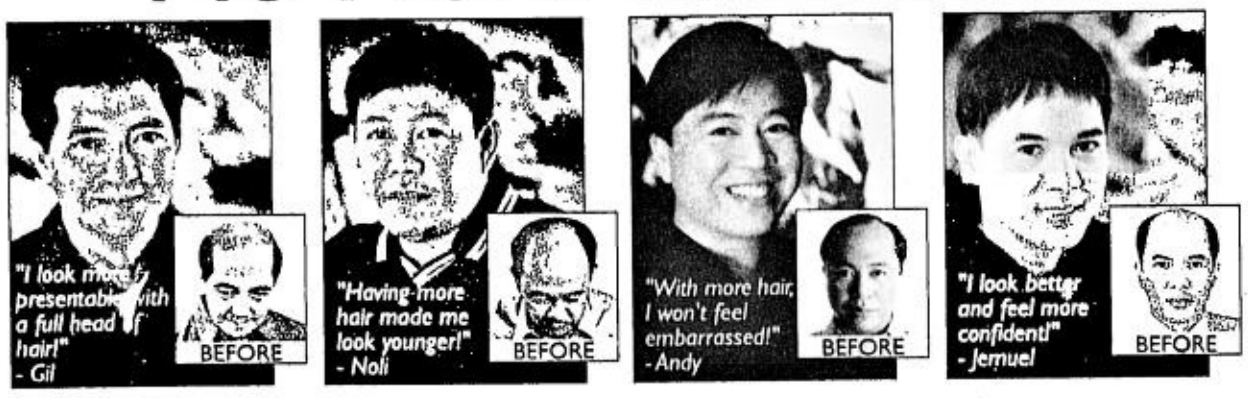

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By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

SEOUL, South Korea—Incorporating home interior designs is a major factor for consumer electronics manufacturers in differentiating themselves from competitors. Such an approach gives a brand distinct identity, much like what Apple Computers or Sony do to their products.

For Korean electronics firm Samsung, the design phase of its products is as important as its engineering phase, capitalizing on the human factor of its products, particularly for the digital media category comprised of visual displays and home appliances. The company is gradually embarking on large-scale integration of user-centered designs in its products in an effort to build its brand.

"In today's trends, image matters a lot when it comes to consumer electronics. In the visual display business, the TV isn't just a black box but should be seen as one of the furniture and part of the interior design of a home," according Soo-Hyun Cho, marketing member of Samsung's visual display team.

Cho said the electronics business continues to rise though manufacturers are being challenged by consumers demanding visually attractive products.

She explained that consumers want their home appliances or gadgets to fit their lifestyle, which requires integration of visual designs.

Cho said in 1996, Samsung made a different approach after having penetrated the consumer electronics business. One is the establishment of a design group that mainly focused on creating innovative looks on existing technologies.

Cho said the design group eventually separated into five centers located in the cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, London, Tokyo and Shanghai. All five centers cooperate with each other in all designs plans for Samsung products.

"Every year, these designers conduct surveys to see what consumers want so we can incorporate these into the products we develop," Cho said

Kim Young-Jun, head of Samsung's visual display design group said one of the design team's activities is to attend furniture and home interior conferences in Europe and the US.

In addition, Jun said one consideration in design development is the user interface. He said the design of the product goes along with its usability.

"Electronics engineers are starting to talk with product designers when making new products or enhancing existing ones," Jun said.

"The L7 was an example of a product where engineers and product designers came together. The consumer market will see more of this happening in the products that they will buy," Jun said.

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BUSINESS Monday

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E-procurement prevents crooked deals

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

GOVERNMENT is the economy's single biggest buyer of goods and services. So it's no surprise that much corruption takes place in public procurement. Devious officials rig the bids to favor their contractor friends, even if they do not offer the lowest prices. The suppliers in turn give a cut of the deal to the officials.

There is a way to short-circuit the foul collusion—put the bidding process in the public eye. This is best done through e-procurement, or running the bids and purchases on the Net, often through a single website.

Single window for purchases

The Philippines can learn much from South Korea, which has set the pace in e-procurement. In that country, the law requires more than 25,000 public organizations to list on the website their bidding information, like project specifications, volume, and criteria for awarding the bids. The site contains information on 390,000 products.

By registering on the site only once, suppliers can join all public bids. Only the Procurement Service's site is allowed to post bid information. It pre-qualifies suppliers and standardizes product information.

Much more efficient

It has made procurement much more efficient. Formerly procurement involved enormous amounts of paper, many trips to government agencies and a large staff. Firms seeking state business had to scan through newspaper ads, and they registered with many government agencies.

The latter in turn did not share information with each other; they kept their own lists of suppliers. Incidents of dirty pre-arranged bidding were not rare. All told, the process was complex, tedious, time-consuming and vulnerable to corruption.

Today, e-procurement has drastically cut down paper work, visits to agencies and staff time.

Before e-procurement, payment for goods took all of 14 days. Today payment is done in just four hours.

Under the table deals

Procurement is now transparent. It has eliminated face-to-face contact, an opportunity for graft. The public can compare the prices offered by different suppliers. The site also provides real-time information on the procurement process. The notices for and results of the bids are posted online.

Private bidders can't collude with each other because all the bids are revealed on the Net. For the same reason, government procurement officers can't delay the placing of orders. They can't connive on selecting the successful bids. With the data completely open to the public, the various agencies can check each other on the awarding of bids.

The field has become much

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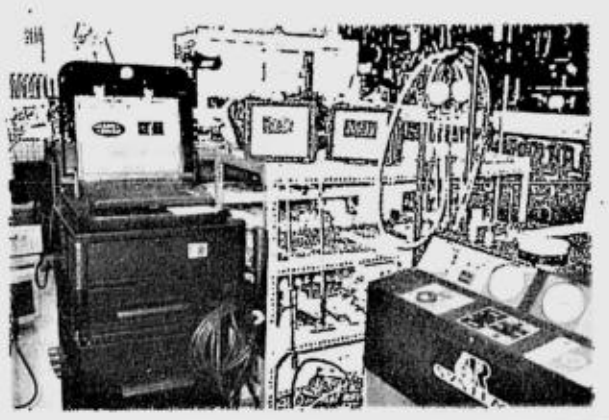

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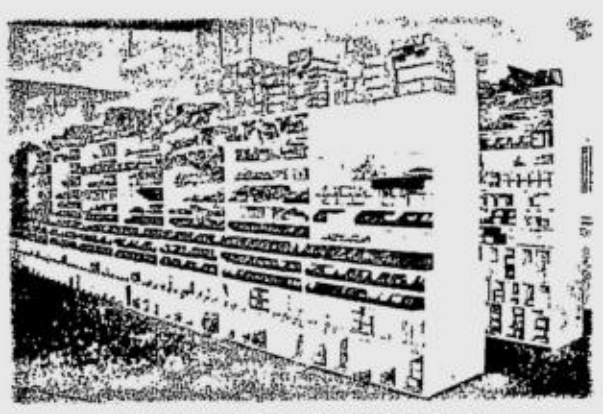

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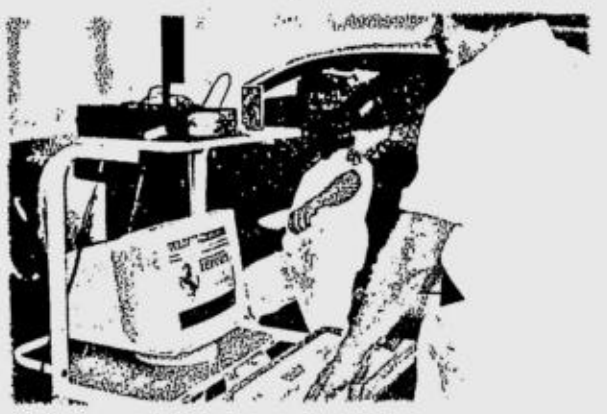

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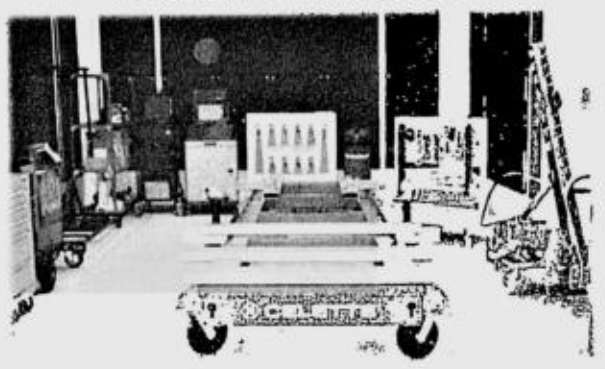

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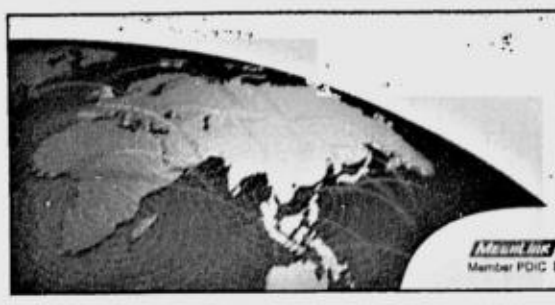

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Manila Megalopolis 2020

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Felino A. Palafox Jr.

IN 1905, Daniel Burnham planned Manila for a population of 800,000.

In 2000, Metro Manila with 14 million people at daytime and 10 million at nighttime is one of the 20 largest megacities in the world.

While Manila comprises only 0.21 percent of the country's total land area, it houses 13 percent of the country's population and contributes 31 percent to overall national production.

It has the highest population growth rate among the world's megacities at 60 persons per hour. Its population is expected to reach 20 million before 2020. The growth in population and production in Metro Manila is spilling over the adjacent regions of Central Luzon and Calabarzon.

Metro Manila, strategically located in the fastest growing region in the world—the Asia-Pacific—can be an urban laboratory of sorts for the mistakes made and lessons (to be) learned in urban planning and real estate development.

Its Asian, European, and American heritage in a developing country setting makes Manila uniquely different. Some of the best practices elsewhere in the world can be appropriately applied to address the country's urban issues and challenges and to make metropolitan Manila more livable and globally competitive.

Strategic growth

The concept plan 2020 puts forward a strategy which takes advantage of the locational edge nationally and globally.

Part of the plan, among others, is the development of, urban development corridors and clustering growth centers like the former US military bases Subic and Clark as well as the opening up of new gateways on the Pacific Ocean coastline.

This will spur new investments in the region and redevelopment opportunities in the inner cities creating jobs and economic opportunities especially for the urban poor.

I hope that this concept plan will provide the urban vision and call to action more progressive policies, plans, and programs, create an investment climate, and implement more pragmatic laws for the development of the Manila Bay - Pacific Coast Metropolitan Region in the 21st century.

Recommendations

In 1571, Manila was established as capital of the Philippines under Spanish rule (1521-1898). The country came under American jurisdiction in 1898 until 1946 and was under Japanese occupation during World War II.

When the Philippines was granted independence by the Americans in 1946, it became the capital of the republic of the Philippines.

Daniel Burnham planned Manila in 1904-1905 for a population of 800,000 along the lines of the American City Beautiful Movement.

A Harvard study, Mutations, showed that among seven listed megacities, Manila has the highest population growth rate of 60 persons per hour (compared to +12 in London and +9 in New York).

My firm, Palafox Associates, has recently been involved in planning and urban renewal for the cities of Manila and Makati and other cities and provinces within or close to Metro Manila and the former US military bases Subic and Clark.

We actively participate in the architecture and master planning of large-scale real estate developments in the expanding metropolitan region over the past 30 years.

Salient features

The concept plan 2020 puts forward a strategy with the following salient features:

- To take advantage of the Manila Bay metropolitan region's locational advantage in the country, in Southeast Asia, and in the Asia-Pacific
- To focus on urban development corridors and clustering of urban growth centers for greater efficiency
- To undertake inter-modal transportation hubs linking together the airports of Manila, Subic, and Clark, the seaports of Manila, Batangas, and Subic on the China Sea side as well as Dingalan and Infanta along the Pacific Ocean
- To transform the former US military bases Subic and Clark into regional and international destinations to improve visibility in the local and national real estate market. Subic as an international seaport in the South China Sea side, Clark as an international airport hub, and eastward towards Dingalan Bay along the Pacific Ocean will be a development corridor that is larger than Singapore and can be tapped as a manufacturing and transshipment hub and technology center for the Central Luzon region
- To enhance agriculture production in areas between urban development corridors. Tourism destination areas will also become more accessible.

Recognizing the interdependence and the need for improved connectivity, interregional and intermetropolitan cooperation among the various levels of government—national, regional, provincial, city, municipal and barangay/barrio—should take place.

Tri-folding collaboration among the government, the private sector, and civil society should be ensured for more integrated urban, metropolitan and regional development.

Chicago was growing faster than New York, but it was characterized by inequality, lax health standards, and labor upheavals. Daniel Burnham's plan was applied in an effort to solve the population related problems. However, certain dilemmas that the city still grapples with are: how to reconcile privatism with public control; growth with restraint; wealth with poverty; and beauty with industry.

Contrary to what most people think, Dubai in the United Arab Emirates has an economy composed of only 20 percent oil and 80 percent trade and tourism.

Until the 1970s, it was a desert community. Today, it is an urban star in the Middle East.

The town Planning Department was then tasked by the ruler of Dubai to fast track its urban development from Third World into a First World city and be a pacesetter within 15 years.

Dubai was able to achieve the ruler's vision. This is proof that as trade boundaries are dismantled, there results improved accessibility and decongestion at the city and country level.

The numerous IT and industrial parks that are emerging in the country will further help boost the economy. Information technology, contact and BPO centers have high value-added. Philippine engineers and IT workers have been ranked among the best in the world by the Global New E-Economy Index.

This concept plan will be beneficial to information and communications technology, which is one of the most promising business segments in the country.

Improving accessibility will assist knowledge-based industries in accessing skilled workers, other industries and universities.

Growth centers and potential corridors are identified as 'counter magnets' to congested Metro Manila. They are envisioned to enhance its livability and global competitiveness.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is principal architect-Urban Planner/Founder of Palafox Associates. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

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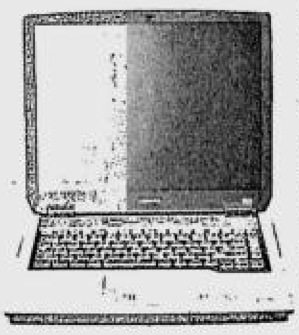

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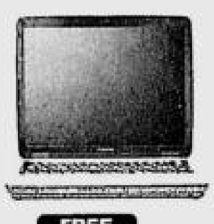

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MOVEMENTS

Philam's new appointments

JOSE L. Cuisia Jr., president and CEO of The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company and AIG country manager for Philippine operations, recently announced the following executive appointments in the Philam Group of Companies:

Rex A. Mendoza, former president and CEO of Philam Asset Management, Inc. (Pami), a member company of the Philam Group of Companies, returns to Philamlife with his appointment as executive vice president & chief marketing Officer effective. He will concurrently be vice chair and CEO of both PAMI and Philam Financials Advisory Services Inc., another Philam affiliate and shall likewise be the Philippine coordinator of AIG's International Retirement Services.

Mendoza joined Philamlife in 1983 after graduating from UP with a degree in Business Administration. He acquired his Masters Degree in Business Management with Distinction from AIM in 1986. In 1993, he gave up his position as SAVP for Group Insurance to start a career in the agency force. He garnered numerous awards as a career agent and was a member of the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table for four years. In 1995, however, he was again tapped by Philamlife to spearhead the creation of PAMI.

Alberto Emilio V. Ramos has been appointed as president and chief operations officer of Philam Asset Management, Inc. (Pami).

Ramos brings with him a wealth of experience, education, and expertise in financial services. Prior to his joining PAMI, he was Vice President and Division Head for Private Banking in one of the country's biggest banks. He was instrumental in growing and maintaining a managed asset base of P36 Billion.

He is a graduate of AIM with a Masters degree in Business Management and a double degree holder in his undergraduate studies— BS degree in Marketing Management and BA degree in Political Science at De La Salle University.

Jeavelyn Y. Tan has been appointed as vice president for Chinese Market. Tan is tasked to

PHILAM'S/ B2-7

Maneuvering in a cocktail party

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

TIPS TO maneuver your way as a guest at a cocktail party:

Do some research on the guests attending the cocktail party. 'Small talk' will be much easier for you.

Determine what your goals are, whether social or business networking.

Do extend your hand and introduce yourself to unfamiliar guests.

Maintain eye contact during introductions and conversations.

Circulate (make the rounds) a little before you head to the bar or buffet table. Food and drink should not be the main goals.

Don't get drunk.

Do keep conversations away from sex, politics and religion.

Keep drinks and food in your left hand. You right hand will be free for meeting, greeting and departure handshakes.

If attending a cocktail party in a private home, treat household staff with dignity and respect. There are to be no personal or special requests from you to the staff.

Finessing cocktail food

Anything passed on a tray is to be picked up with a napkin and popped in your mouth or put on your cocktail plate.

Caviar. If caviar is passed to you in a bowl with a serving spoon, serve a teaspoon onto your plate. When the accompaniments are served, use the serving spoon given, a few lemon slices and a couple of toast points. Assemble a canape to your plate with a knife, then use your fingers to put in your mouth.

Crudite or raw vegetables. Picked up with your fingers, it's dipped into the accompanying sauce only once. Dipping into the sauce again once you have already taken a bite (double dipping) is forbidden.

Olives. Held in your fingers and eaten in several bites. Pits are discarded in your napkin or the side of your plate.

Pate de Foie Gras. Also known as liver pate, slice off a square and lift it with your knife onto the accompanying toast triangle. Then pick up the toast and eat it with your hands. It is sometimes served already cut into triangles.

Sandwiches. Small sandwiches are picked up and eaten with your fingers.

- Make eye contact with one person in the group, smile and listen until they include you.
- Introduce yourself when there is a pause in the conversation.
- If you have something relevant to add to a group's conversation, jump in, then introduce yourself afterward.
- To initiate a conversation, you can talk about the situation, talk about yourself, or talk about the other person.

To be continued next week...

Please email your business etiquette queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com names of senders will not be published.

E-procurement prevents crooked deals

From page B2-1

more competitive. Participation has risen sharply—the number of bids has tripled. Today there are 87,000 suppliers registered on the site. Around 1.2 million people participate in e-bidding every month.

Because of transparency, competition and efficiency gains, the savings amount to an estimated $2.5 billion in annual procurement costs. This compares with the $26 million investment to set up the system.

Philippine version

Other countries have followed South Korea's example of e-procurement. They include Bulgaria, Chile, Japan, Mexico, and yes, the Philippines. Our own Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has its own e-procurement site.

"There are no side deals, no hidden seals," says DBM Secretary Emilia Boncodin. "All the suppliers can log on to the system and make their products (known) to all government agencies," The Philippines' Government Electronic Procurement Service (G-EPS) consists of:

- a Public Tender Board which offers access to information on bid packages;
- an Electronic Catalog to support the purchase of goods and services by government agencies; and
- a Supplier Registry for the firms that want to do business with government agencies.

Further, the site includes the forms, laws and executive orders governing e-procurement and the requirements for accreditation. There is a section on frequently asked questions. The site features a directory of government agencies and past and planned agency procurement. Suppliers even get to see the list of their potential competitors.

Blacklisted contractors

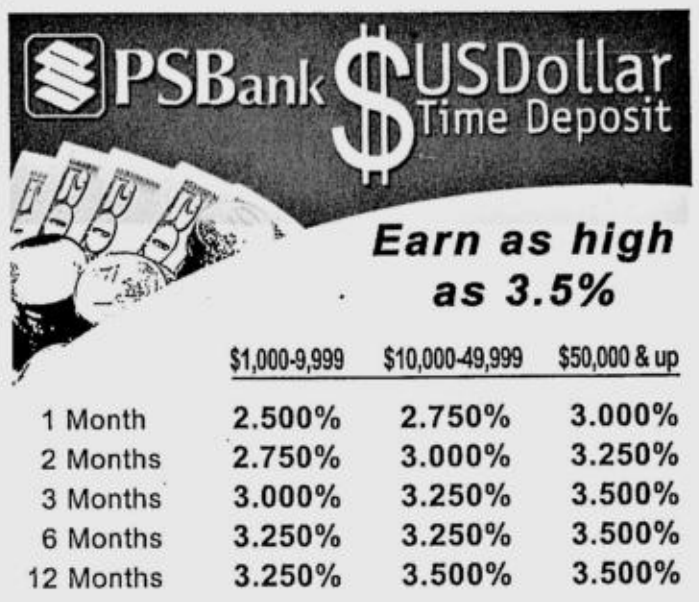
What is likely the most interesting part of the site is the list of blacklisted contractors. It shows which companies have had their licenses suspended, revoked, or denied. A banner scrolls through the screen, inviting visitors to click on the blacklist. The roster even runs up to 7 pages, spelling out companies and naming names.

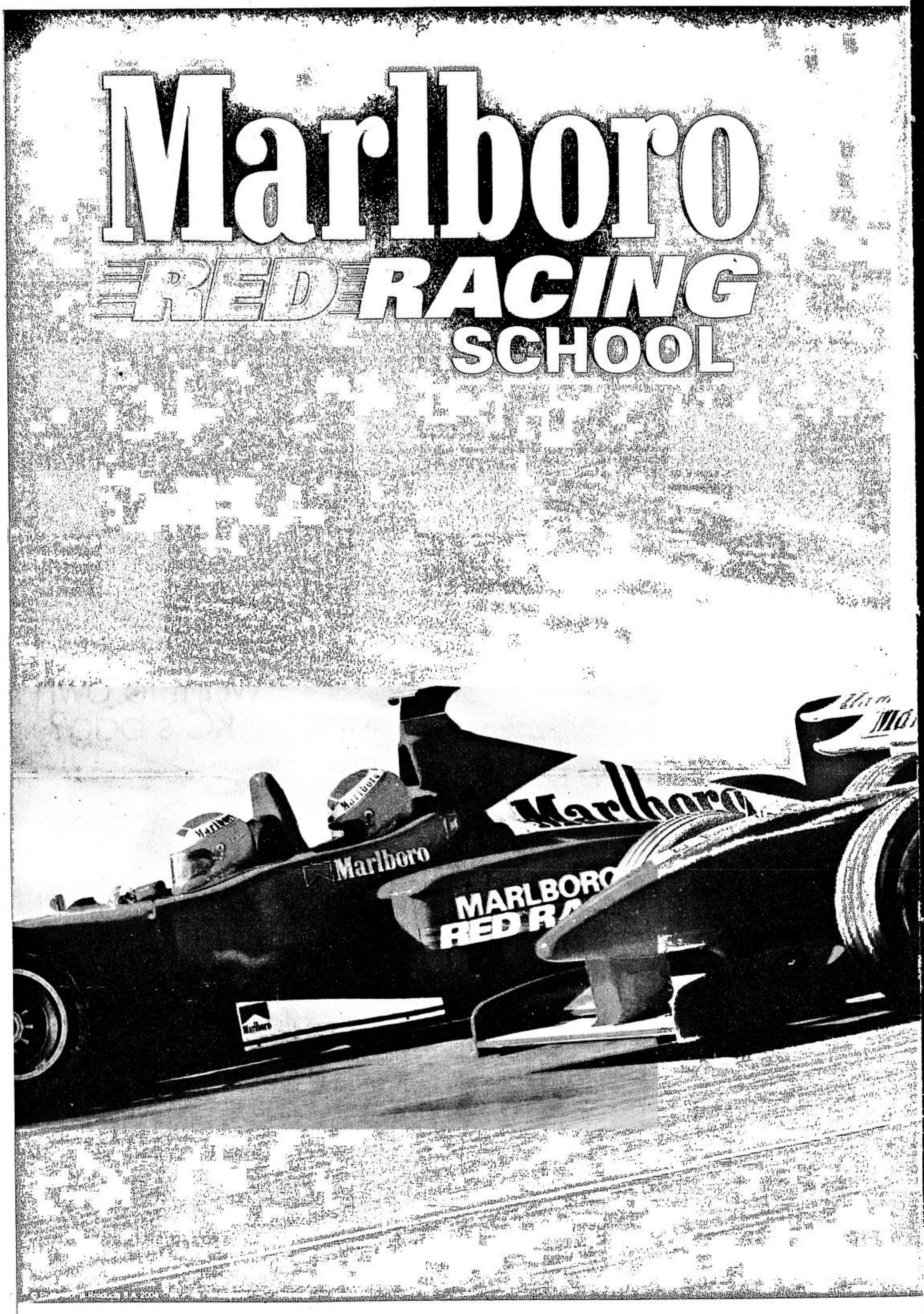
Just five months after the launch of the G-EPS in November 2000, the site registered 62 suppliers and 86 agencies, and it posted 71 bid notices.

The main benefit, as in the Korean case, is transparency. The site opens to all suppliers information on prices and products. They get to know who are the winning bidders, the contact amounts, and the reason for the award. Because of the electronic catalogue, state auditors can verify that supplies purchased were not over-priced.

The budget secretary said in 2002 that the DBM was saving 26 percent in total procurement costs because of the e-procurement system.

What remains to be done is to pass a law to requiring all government agencies to use e-procurement. Those who avoid it should be penalized. Better if all purchases and bids are done through a single website. *Comments to dennisarroyo@yahoo.com*





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Editor Aries Espinosa

From tattooed baby to dirty toe, Pony stomps you up!

THROUGHOUT human history, there have been instances when people with the wildest, bad-as-I-wanna-be and non-conformist attitude have left their indelible mark in society. How they were remembered spanned from their unique personalities to their ground-breaking works and contribution in their respective fields. Some of those who stood out became icons of their respective decades and are still revered today.

Who doesn't remember James "Rebel without a Cause" Dean's rugged looks, Marilyn Monroe's upskirt shot, the Sex Pistols' "Screaming Baby" album cover, or Dennis Rodman's "Bad Boy" image? Each one has found its way into everyone's bedroom wall and closet. Their influence has somewhat cascaded into how we look at ourselves, how we think and probably how we dress.

Today's urban lifestyle has once more taken a walk into the wild side with Pony footwear at the forefront. Pony has made a name for itself using non-conformity as a means to quickly gain exposure. Wickedly wild. Confrontational. Anti-establishment. These are the perceptions given by those who have encountered Pony's trademark edgy advertising that was developed to break paradigm, redefine norms and position itself as the shoe brand for trend-setting individuals who excel in their respective expertise.

A clear testimony to Pony's notoriety is the eye-catching "Tattooed Baby" with the word "Mom" written on his tummy. Let's not forget the "Dirty Toe" who can challenge our foot's dexterity anytime. Pony has gained a large following from several "bad boys" in America's sporting arena as well as from the music industry. Linkin Park, Justin Timberlake, R. Kelly, Blink 182, Pink, Hoobastank, Korn, Tommy Lee, Paris Hilton and Snoop Dogg are just some of the artists who have epitomized the Pony attitude. It is their trend-setting and breaking down the norm attitude that set them in a class similar to the Pony brand.

As the world's premier modern performance brand noted for its outlaw aesthetic and renegade lifestyle, Pony unveiled its street heritage and rebellious spirit through its three collections, pony.style, pony.move, and pony.archive. Each collection follows guiding principles through authentic style, authentic performance, and authentic history, respectively.

The ?pony.style collection is the sport influenced, modern and sophisticated lifestyle shoe product with a guiding principle for authentic style and anchored in sport ?while pony.move highlights the technical performance product for modern definitions of sport. The pony.archive collection features the original footwear from the '70s and '80s with updated classics and derivatives.

LINKIN Park: epitomizing the Pony attitude

The collection is expected to attract and entice different types of consumers, where some of the key fabrications and details will be expected as well as unexpected and not common in the marketplace. The color ways were taken from a fantastic color palette along with a wide range of materials to strategically merchandise the line.

For Pony, having a kick-ass image and attitude are all that you need to stomp your way to the top.

'OCHO-OCHO'

Smart public affairs officers headed by Jane Paredes (center), public affairs head (Visayas-Mindanao) and some invited media, recently conducted 'Ocho-Ocho', 8 ecotours in 8 destination in Iloilo, Aklan and Antique to get firsthand information of unique local natural and cultural attractions and the Filipino's fabled rural hospitality. The 5-day 4-night tour has Pink Patio Resort in Boracay as the group's base. Shown are Jonas Palomata (seated right), Pink Patio guest and activity officer with Odik Lara, Cebu-based freelance photographer, Wo Rosete, media relations head, Smart, Judith Juntilla, associate editor, Men's Zone Magazine, Jude Bautista, freelance photographer, Darwin Flores, community partnerships senior manager, Smart, Jaser Marasigan (in shades, seated), travel and tourism writer, Mar Rivera, public affairs officer, Smart, NN Navarro, public affairs officer (Visayas-Mindanao), Smart, Boboi Costas, travel and tourism writer, Cebu Daily News, and Nova Concepcion, public affairs officer, Smart.

RP's rich cultural diversity takes centerstage at int'l tourism expo

ARRIVING members of the international travel community will soon feast on the rich cultural diversity of the Philippines.

Awaiting them is a big treat to a spectacular fashion and cultural show that will highlight the "15th Philippine Travel Mart (PTM)," the country's biggest international tourism expo, which will be staged at the Megatrade Halls 1 and 2 of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City from Sept. 3 to 5.

Indigenous and unique tribal and bridal costumes and awesome cultural performances by various dance troupes will add glitter to the already colorful three-day expo of tourism packages, destinations, products and services, according to PTM deputy secretary general for special events Yvonne Pascual.

"The amazing presentations and the exciting exhibits will give life and meaning to this year's PTM theme-"Wow... Philippines Shining in Asia!'" Pascual said.

"And to make everything even more exciting, there will be competitions for the Best Cultural Presentation and the Best Costume, or Bituin ng Kasuotang Filipino," Pascual added.

For the best costume, the contestants shall be judged according to costume design (25 percent) and fabric (25 percent), personality and poise (30 percent) and intelligence (20 percent).

On the other hand, the best cultural presentation is open to all students of colleges and universities and members of independent dance troupes.

They must be endorsed by their respective regional directors of the Department of Tourism (DOT) or college/university deans.

Composed of a minimum of 10 to a maximum of 25 participants, each cultural group must present a truly indigenous Filipino skill, artistry, creativity, and showmanship through songs, dances, poems, musical instruments, and colorful production numbers.

They must submit an 80-word description of the presentation, which is limited to 10 minutes only, and wear authentic costumes.

Among their spectators are more than 250 executives of foreign outbound travel firms and some 50 members of the foreign media, including thousands of PTM's local visitors, exhibitors, and guests.

Cash prizes and trophies await the winners.

More information can be obtained from Sandy Pery or Jeanette Cabudoy of Global Visions events & Marketing Network Inc at 635-0350, 637-1257, or e-mail gve_mktgnet@pilnet.com.

Sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp, Philippine Tourism Authority, Philippine Airlines, WG&A, and Air Philippines, the 15th PTM is supported by the DOT and the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp and organized by the Philippine Tour Operators Association (Philtoa).

Aside from Pascual, the other officers of the 15th PTM organizing committee are overall chair Leo Picaso, secretary general Celine F. Clemente, and deputy secretary generals John Paul Cabalza for travel fair, Brenda Consul for business prospects, Roberto L. Castro Jr. for sponsorship, and Joebert Cocjin for finance, with Emiliano Garchitorena, Liela Salgado and Felix Cristopher Alegre III as members of the advisory board.

AsiaFood Expo 2004 features all-chocolate tilt

AS EVERYONE loves chocolate, the smell of chocolate will fill the air of World Trade Center and Philippine Trade Training Center during AsiaFood Expo 2004 for it will launch from Sept. 1 to 3 the 1st AsiaFood Expo Culinary Excellence All Chocolate Competition.

The All Chocolate Competition features the Chocolate Baking Competition, the Praline/Petit Fours Competition and Without Added Sugar Truffles Competition.

Culinary professionals, pastry chefs, bakers, chocolate enthusiasts and dietitians from various hotels, restaurants, culinary schools and baking sectors nationwide will take part in this premier event.

The first prize winners of the three competitions will be sent to Callebaut School in Singapore for a three-day chocolate course for free.

To add credence and prestige to the competitions, one of the best Belgian chocolate chef of Callebaut will serve as one of the judges. And to heighten the interest and excitement to the AsiaFood Expo Culinary Excellence All Chocolate Competition, this Belgian chef will perform a 90-minute demonstration before each competition specifically on the object of the concerned competition.

The competition is being organized to further promote the quality of products and services of the food and baking sector by displaying various talents of the industry practitioners and showcasing the competitive quality of products being used in the competition. This serves as the highlight of AsiaFood Expo 2004 (Afex), Food & Drinks Asia 2004, Food Franchising 2004 and FoodServ Asia 2004, the most exciting and most-awaited food show where thousands of trade buyer visitors gathered to see and draw insights on the industry of the participating countries, exchange market information and discuss possible joint venture and technology transfer to boost the Philippine economy.

AsiaFood Expo Culinary Excellence Competition is being organized in cooperation with Actron Industries Inc, the supplier of flavors, food ingredients, texturized vegetable protein, concentrated/fractionated milk fat, industrial chocolates, liquid and powdered caramel colors and bakery ingredients, and Barry Callebaut, the leading suppliers of quality industrial gourmet chocolate products worldwide.

For more information, call Trade Information Marketing & Exhibitions Inc at 834-0085 or 86, or visit its offices at S-324, Secretariat Building, PICC, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. E-mail time@skyinet.net.

Seminar on textbook writing

KNOW the manner of integrating the social sciences and the linkage of sciences to humanities in writing a textbook. Join the seminar workshop titled "Rewriting the Textbook Development Process Using the Unacom Social Science Framework." This will be held from Aug. 26 to 28 at LB Soriano Hall, Seameo-Innotech Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

The event is a convergence for social science textbook writers, editors and designers, publishers, educators and curriculum planners. It aims to make participants understand social studies with the goal of nationalism and positive human development; understand the learning habits of Filipinos and how media affect the learning process of children and the youth, and apply book design and layout principles appropriate to Filipinos.

The seminar workshop is sponsored by Unesco National Commission (Unacom) and organized by the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC). For more information, call 724-4564, fax 725-4228 or e-mail aijcmla@info.com.ph.

BPI RECEIVES SUPERBRAND STATUS

Bank of the Philippine Islands, the country's original 'brand' for banking, was awarded the SuperBrand Status by Reader's Digest for its consistent commitment to provide innovative banking and financial services to its depositors. Shown are (from left) BPI consumer banking senior vice president for marketing Nita A. Claravall, A-Z Direct Marketing president Lirio Sandoval and regional advertising director for Reader's Digest Asia Simon Cholmeley. The SuperBrands Awards is based on the annual consumer research conducted by Reader's Digest, which is regarded as the most exhaustive and accurate research project of its kind. The Bank's 152-year tradition of banking leadership in the country placed BPI as the Philippines' leading and most innovative financial institution.

Power speaking skills

NOW AND from time immemorial, the one skill that makes a corporate executive stand out, succeed and bring about positive change in the community is his mastery over the art and science of public speaking. At this highly interactive and intensive workshop, you will learn to be a clear, concise and a compelling speaker. Using the principles of Mind Mapping and NLP, you will learn to analyze needs and characteristics, develop deep rapport and scintillate audiences. Don't miss this rare seminar slated on Aug. 24, 25 and 26, 1 to 5 p.m. at the RCBC Plaza, Makati City. The resource lecturer for this program is Raju Mandhyan, a Buzan Licensed Instructor for Mind Mapping, ATM-S and former trainer at the British Council in Manila. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles Inc, a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719/20 for more information.

UPS SPONSORS JAGUAR GOLF

UPS, the world's largest package delivery company, was a hole sponsor of the 5th Jaguar World Golf Invitational. UPS and Jaguar Philippines sealed their partnership with a handshake during the tournament held at the Country Club in Canlubang, Laguna. The winner of the Philippine tournament was sent to Scotland to compete for the world title. Shown are Jaguar Philippines chair and president Wellington Soong (left) and UPS business development manager Red Ramirez.

ProductFILES

High-performance tires

REPUTATION for having a softer ride and performance credibility are the qualities keeping Nitto Tires at the forefront of the tuner market. The aggressive tire and tread designs have helped Nitto corner a sizeable share of the sport compact and high performance streetcar market in both the US and European markets. Nitto is widely recognized in the after market industry and is the preferred choice of high-performance tuning firms such as RENNtech, Axis and endorsed by the National Import Racing Association (Nira).

Shown are the Nitto Extreme Performance NT555 and Extreme Force NT-404 and Terra Grappler All Terrain tires, which are designed to outperform the competition. Nitto tires are rated among the highest for treadwear (UTQG ratings) and designed to look and feel smooth on the road or in competition. Its high-tread block rigidity and high-grip rubber compound provides superior traction, larger contact patch and reliable handling for total vehicle control in varying road conditions.

Wheel Gallery offers the Nitto performance tires for its big size 18"-22" SUV wheels as well as 18"- 20" European Benz and BMW line up. For inquiries on the hottest wheels and tires in town, call or visit Wheel Gallery at Kartek Center, Santolan Road, Greenhills, San Juan or call 726-0965, 724-7176, 724-2739.

Firms in most countries are family-run, survey reveals

FAMILY enterprises make up 70 percent of all businesses in most countries, a survey in 26 countries revealed recently.

This global data is echoed in the Philippines by the increasing number of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), most of which are family-owned and are seen by the government as a significant player in generating domestic-driven growth.

According to Grant Thornton's People and Relationship Issues in Management (PRIMA) global research report, family-owned businesses face unique challenges precisely because of the "overlapping" relationship that binds the family owners and/or managers of the enterprise. Too often family values collide with tested business-oriented principles. Grant Thornton is one of the world's leading organizations of accounting and consulting firms.

During the recent launch of the Family Business Consulting (FBC) services of public accounting and business advisory firm Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A), the Grant Thornton member firm in the Philippines, International Director of PRIMA Andrew Godfrey presented some of the research findings. He mentioned that in Asia, family businesses that bank on close family ties become problematic when extended family members enter the picture.

"Family system is not equipped beyond those lines. There is no framework for cousin-to-cousin," said Godfrey. He added that "there is an enormous similarity of conflicts and other crucial issues faced by these family-run businesses, whether they are from western or eastern countries."

Godfrey similarly noted that family businesses face the unique challenges not only of recognizing family influence, but also of balancing the needs of the family with the commercial needs of the business.

With its growing clientele of family-owned businesses, P&A has added FBC to its roster of professional services, developing a service methodology for Filipino families based on Grant Thornton's PRIMA framework. P&A will build on its known strengths in accounting, M&A advisory, tax planning, corporate valuations, financial modeling, forensics and fraud audit or business outsourcing to provide a wide-array of FBC related services.

"Our FBC services will play a critical role in helping Filipino families make important family and business decisions," explained Antonio Herbosa, Head of P&A's corporate finance division and FBC Lead Advisor.

Herbosa added: "We believe there is a very huge middle-market that can't afford the consulting fees that some US-based Ivy League schools or global consulting firms charge for similar services. P&A addresses this by bringing its global PRIMA expertise to the country and pricing it at a rate that is affordable to Filipino professionals."

The FBC Manila team is offering a Family Business Diagnostic product that will allow a family business to anticipate potential conflicts and problem issues.

The diagnostic will help provide a "tailor-made roadmap" that will show a family how it can mix family and business values and move forward. According to Herbosa, each family is unique, and only after a thorough diagnostic of the family and family business will the FBC team be able to craft the appropriate roadmap. The product will be priced so that even small mom and pop stores will be able to afford it.

The FBC Manila team is composed of professionals with diverse backgrounds and disciplines, varying graduate degrees, but all trained under Grant Thornton's PRIMA methodology.

Opportunity knocks but once.
JOB

Philam's new . . .

From page B2-2

spearhead the development of new Chinese business units and Chinese agents of Philamlife to further improve productivity of the Chinese niche market.

Tan brings with her over 12 years of work experience in life insurance selling and agency building and development. She started her insurance selling career in 1992. She graduated with a BS degree in Commerce major in Accounting from De La Salle University.

Josefino R. Sto. Domingo, former executive vice president for sales & marketing, has been appointed as Special Adviser to the President on agency matters. Prior this appointment, Sto. Domingo has been the stalwart leader of Philamlife's agency force as he constantly led the Company in achieving production targets. He has always been with agency sales and has provided more than a fair share to the Company's production efforts all throughout his career.

As he has been responsible for provincial agencies for many years prior his appointment as EVP for sales & marketing, he has traveled all over the country to push for improved productivity from agents and agency leaders. While he has expressed his intention to eventually join the agency force, Sto. Domingo, as special adviser to the president on agency matters will, for the meantime, focus on providing management suggestions on new strategies to achieve agency objectives.

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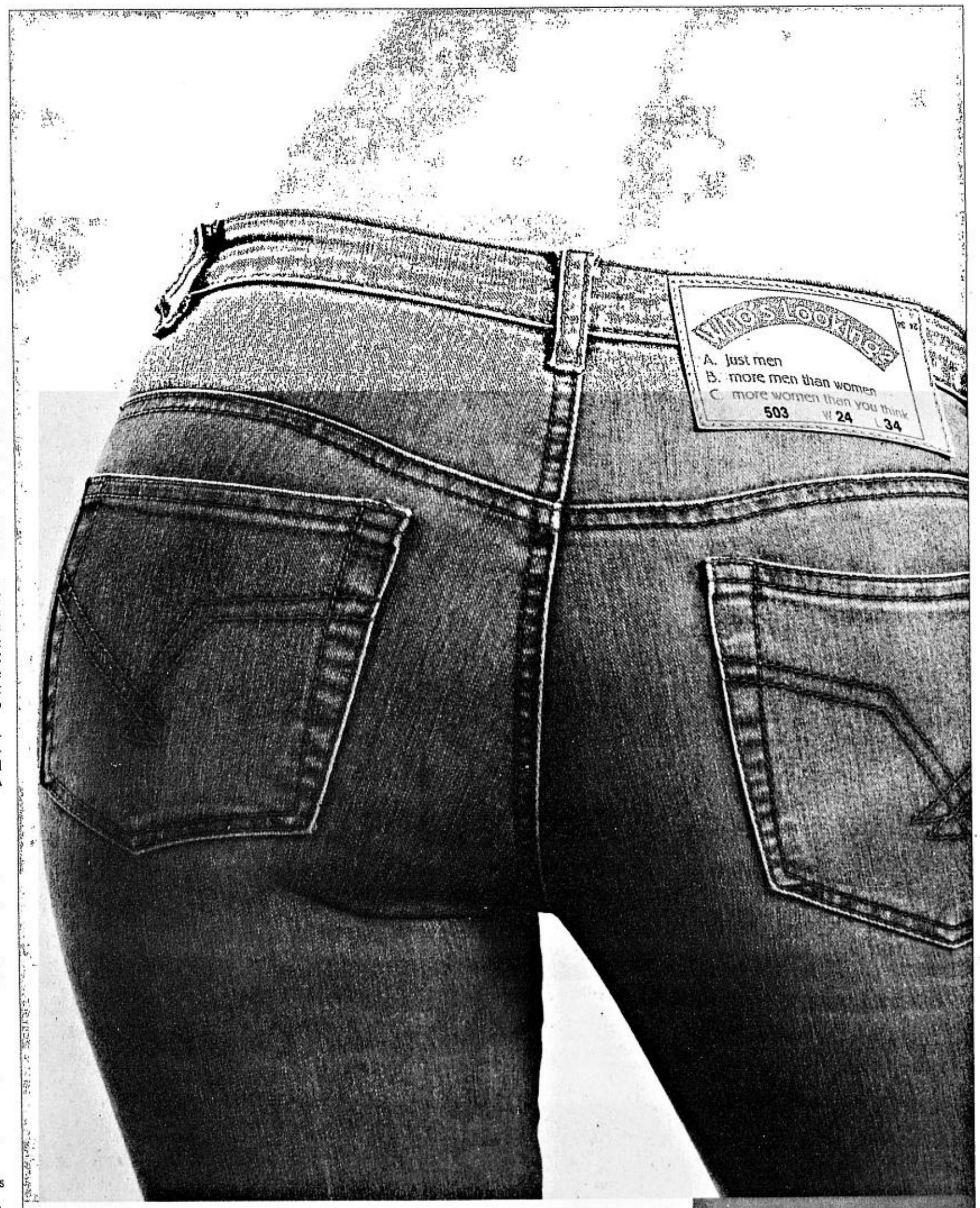

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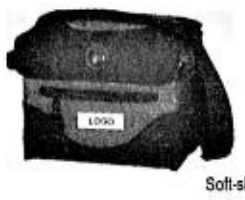
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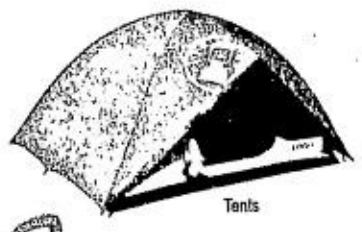
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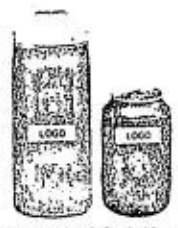
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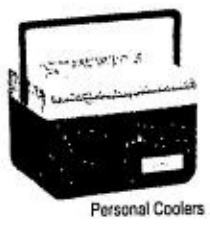
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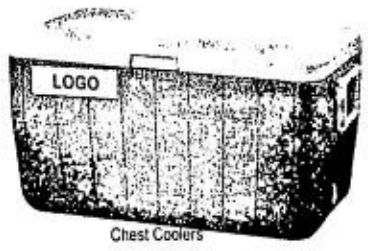
PC Bottles

Rechargeable Sportlights



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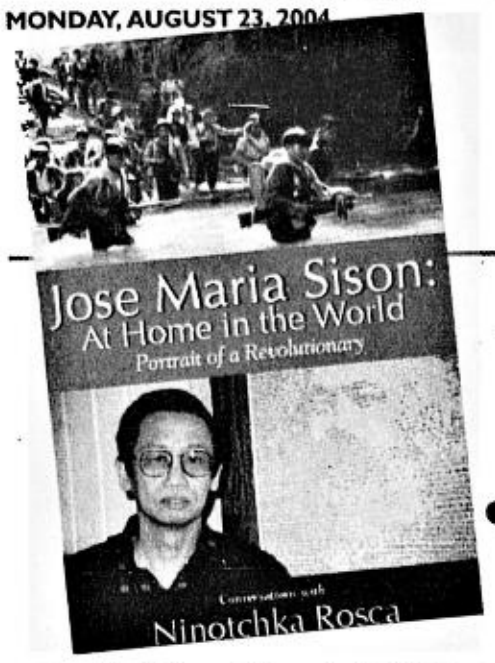


Joma and Ninotchka at home with each other

"Jose Maria Sison: At Home in the World, Portrait of a Revolutionary"
By Ninotchka Rosca
Published in the US by Open Hand Publishing House and in the Philippines by Ibon Foundation,
2004, 260 pages

By Bobby Tuazon
Contributor

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed novelist and journalist Ninotchka Rosca is in the Philippines for a series of launching of a new book, 'Jose Maria Sison: At Home in the World, Portrait of a Revolutionary." The book's third launching is on Aug. 24 in Balai Kalinaw, UP campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

Review

The book was actually written in collaboration with Sison whose contribution is drawn largely from a series of conversations with Rosca held in The Netherlands from 2001-2003. The book should have been published earlier had not the collaborative work been derailed by the inclusion of Sison in 2002 in the "foreign terrorist list" of the United States and some European Union countries. Now, according to Sison, as a result of the renewal of the US "terrorist" listing of himself and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army this early August, initial royalties from the publication of the book have been frozen.

Any Filipino who wants to understand why, despite the collapse of "socialism" in Eastern Europe more than a decade ago and the transformation of China into a mixed economy, the communist-led revolution in the Philippines continues to rage should read the book. "At Home in the World" is partly a biographical sketch of Sison but it also takes the reader to the Marxist-Leninist ideology that continues to sustain the armed struggle which Sison helped father more than 30 years ago. The book shares the theoretical perspective and the world view that enable one to comprehend the concrete conditions of the Philippines that fuel the revolution and, according to Sison himself, the prospects of a socialist surge throughout the world.

An American political science professor, Robert Gorham, noted that Sison is among the most important 210 Marxists in the world since the 1848 publication of the "Communist Manifesto." Several years ago, nationalist historian Teodoro Agoncillo considered Sison, who reestablished the Communist Party of the Philippines in 1968, as one of the three most influential revolutionary leaders after Katipunan founder Andres Bonifacio and Crisanto Evangelista.

Furthermore, he is said to be among three Filipinos who changed the contours of Philippine politics: the other two are Ferdinand Marcos and Benigno Aquino Jr. Former radical and now government bureaucrat Rigoberto Tiglao admitted in a weekly magazine two years ago that had Sison's historical destiny been rerouted, he could have been a good presidential material.

Poetry

Sison, who is now 65, himself has written books including the Struggle for National Democracy, Philippine Struggle and Revolution, Philippine Economy and Politics and several others. In the late 1986 or months after his release from 10 years of Marcos imprisonment, he received the Southeast Asia Write Award for Poetry in Thailand.

Sison the writer and poet is also Sison the revolutionary. In one of his conversations with Rosca, he talks about his legacy to the Filipino people as one of "integrating Marxism-Leninism with the concrete conditions and practice of the Philippine revolution." That includes, among others, defining the character of the Philippine revolution as national democratic based on a semi-feudal and semi-colonial society.

In one way or the other, he has also been a political fugitive from the time he was at the center of the rebuilding of the CPP and then the formation of the NPA in the late 1960s, during the First Quarter Storm that, in turn, led to the imposition of martial law and his arrest in 1977 as Marcos's "most wanted person." He continues to face danger even in exile in the form of assassination plots and now, his being included in the "foreign terrorist" list.

Determined

But, as he tells Rosca, he is not somebody who runs away from danger. He has faced risks since his youth: when he was expelled from Ateneo high school for his radical ideas, when for similar reasons—and despite being a cum laude graduate—his professorship in UP was canceled, when he was blacklisted by the US embassy in 1961, and so on. The haz-

JOMA/ C2

G PLAN FAMILY TIES
Celebrates Fun Family Moments

At first glance, it seemed like just another Sunday at the Glorietta Activity Center last August 15 – kids running around the playground, teenagers admiring their new purchases, moms keeping an eye on their kids, while dads munch on a bite to eat – until one notices the ubiquitous G logo flashing all over the place. This wasn't any ordinary family day, it was G Plan Family Day, where having a G-Plan gives you guaranteed access to exclusive activities and promos for the family.

Young children rushed to the mini-playground and arts area while their older siblings went in droves to the gaming booth, where they tried their hand at the latest Playstation 2 games. Various concessionaires offered free food samples and discounted items to all Globe subscribers and their families, but the most popular service by far was the G Plan family photo booth, which offered free family portraits printed on-the-spot and presented in a lovely blue picture frame.

Interactive games and programs were staged throughout the day. Storyteller Hannah Bernardino enthralled kids with her wacky rendition of contemporary children's stories. She was later joined onstage by actor/veejay JM Rodriguez in hosting the games portion. Teams consisting of two family members each participated in text-enhanced versions of popular party games like Pass the Message and Bring Me, while audience members delighted in participating in a text-based raffle. Various gift packs and household appliances such as rice cookers, microwave ovens and washing machines were awarded to the lucky contestants.

The day would not be complete without the parents getting to know more on how to get connected with their family even if they are away with G Plan Family Ties plans and services, which includes the breakthrough services Share-a-Load, Call and Text Collect, and Txt Bak Mo, Libre Ko. G-Plan Family Ties also offers the G-Flex Extension Plans, which allows existing G Plan or G Flex subscribers to extend the gift of G-Plan to their kids and other loved ones with low consumable monthly service fee from P250 to P500.

Plus, parents who will be availing of the extension plans until October 31 also get to enjoy discounted 2-way call rates for as low as P3.15 within that period.

Bringing families closer together has always been one of Globe Handyphone's primary thrusts. G Plan Family Day celebrated the meaningful moments families spend with each other, and turned a simple trip to the mall into an enjoyable family bonding experience. All in all, the day was a rousing success, made possible by Globe!

Families troop to the G Plan Family Day

Twins Rominick and Renz share a Globe connection.

A G Plan family strikes a pose at the photo booth.

Families sign up for the G Plan Family Day festivities.

Hosts JM Rodriguez and Hannah Bernardino tell the audience about the services under G Plan Family Ties.

These are the family ties that bind...

Globe makes life colorful for kids.

The Deloria family wins a microwave oven after a rousing game of Textionary.

Dads can count on G Plan Family Ties.

G Plan Family Day

Ate Hannah enthralls the kids with her storytelling skills.

Peta builds a home

PETA chair Ramon del Rosario Jr. lowers time capsule, with Maryo J. delos Reyes, Fulgencio Factoran Jr., Aurora Silayan-Go, Gamay Arkoncel, Soxie Topacio, Nic Tiongson, and Joel Lamangan assisting.

IN 1967, the Philippine Educational Theater Association was born with a vision of a national theater movement. It also dreamed of a home base—its own theater and school.

While waiting for the edifice, Peta lived as "gypsies" even as it carried out its vision through nationwide theater organizing and networking. It helped give birth to hundreds of drama groups in schools, parishes, communities, sectors, regions and migrant groups.

Peta has been both cradle and home to prominent artists and individuals such as the late Lino Brocka, Joel Lamangan, Maryo J. delos Reyes, Soxie Topacio, Lutgardo Labad, Brenda Fajardo and Cecilia B. Garrucho. These personalities have shared their talents and expertise through television and movies, print, radio, education and other theater groups and endeavors.

In 2000, the Theater Center and School Project was finally launched, with the purchase of a lot at 5 Sunnyside Drive, Barangay Kristong Hari, Quezon City (behind the Quezon City Sports Club). The Leandro V. Locsin Partners Architectural firm designed the building to be constructed on the lot.

The groundbreaking ceremonies took place last June, led by Peta chair Ramon del Rosario Jr., president Cecilia B. Garrucho, executive director Beng Santos-Cabangon, other board members such as Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Aurora Silayan-Go, Nicanor Tiongson and Fulgencio Factoran Jr.

Senior Peta members were present in full force: television, movie and theater directors like Soxie Topacio, Joel Lamangan, Maryo J. delos Reyes, Fernando Josef, Khryss Adalia, Phil Noble, Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil and Maribel Legarda. Both old and new Peta members and special friends as well as the executives from the project management firm, the contractors and the architectural firm also graced the event.

PETA signs agreement with managers and contractors for the Peta Theater Center and School: architect Arturo Racelis of Almarey Construction Corp., Jack Yabut, Aurora Silayan-Go, Nicanor Tiongson, Soxie Topacio and Beng Santos-Cabangon, all of the Peta board; (seated) engineer Rey Magtanguihan of Almarey; Dennis Espinar of Decor Construction Corp.; and Cecilia B. Garrucho, Ramon del Rosario Jr., lawyer Fulgencio Factoran Jr. and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez of the Peta board

PHOTOS BY AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Barring delays, the first phase of the project should be done by March 2005, making the 400-seat theater fully operational by July of that year.

The Theater Center and School will also house the administrative offices of Peta, as well as its various programs such as the Children's Theater Program, Metropolitan Teen Theater League, Women's Theater Program, the Kalinangan Ensemble, School of People's Theater and Playwright's Development Program.

The construction of the theater and school is made possible by the generous support of international partners such as the Inter-Church for Development Corp. and Cordaid of The Netherlands, Bread for the World, Misereor, Terre des Hommes of Germany and the Ford Foundation, and local foundations and corporations such as the Phinma Group and the Children and Youth Foundation of the Philippines. Peta members and friends have also given contributions.

Call 4100822 or 7249637. E-mail peta@petatheater.com

The pleasures of book collecting—and reading

By Cynthia O. Valdes
Contributor

IF THERE is one thing that atrophies my bank account, it's purchases from the bookstore. The few times in the year that I travel, I can do without buying clothes and other things, but stopping by the bookstore, I cannot seem to do.

On a recent trip to Hong Kong, I made the usual beeline to Tai Yip, one of my favorite stops. This time, instead of the main store on the Hong Kong side, I went to the branch at the Museum of Art in Tsim Sha Tsui, beside the Space Museum. The salesgirl (who was at the main store when I last passed by) instantly recognized me as a regular customer (that's nice!) and gave me a 10-percent discount.

I am forever on the lookout for new publications on ceramics, not necessarily expensive coffee-table books but the useful new monographs, full of current information by leading lights in the ceramic scene; or jade (I recently produced a paper on Pre-historic Jade in the Philippines which has been included in a publication of the UP Archaeological Studies Program) and/or Chinese or Southeast Asian history.

I discovered a new bookstore near the Marco Polo Gateway where I stayed. At Page One, I resisted a romantic impulse to buy a book of love poems (because I didn't really "need" it). I chose instead a volume called "Speaking of Books" edited by Rob Kaplan and Harold Rabinowitz. It was a handsome but compact book written on good quality paper. It was a compilation of quotes in praise of books, the pleasures of reading, how to read, libraries, collectors and collecting books, the book trade, etc. It inspired me to do this article.

Second-hand bookstores

There are lots of second-hand bookstores everywhere, some of them "hole-in-the wall" or "up a narrow staircase" affairs. Not all of these are worth the effort.

THE COFFEE table in Cynthia's library and workplace

I remember fondly Strand in New York. Most people think of it as a "second-hand" bookstore. Books are indeed strewn about or piled in almost haphazard fashion at Strand. But they also carry new books.

It took me a while to recover from the cost of a coffee-table edition of "Tang and Liao Ceramics" by William Watson, published by Thames and Hudson. This was some time ago. But if the scholarship is good, there will always be value even in the old writings. It's a good book to have in a ceramic library.

A more modest paperback "Sources of Chinese Tradition, Vol I" edited by Theodore de Bary, was a worthwhile buy. I have gone over it several times and it has given me precious insights on the Chinese mind (shaped to a large extent by the sage and teacher Confucius) and the structure of Chinese society (in the old days) as the Middle Kingdom and Center of the Universe, vis-à-vis its "barbarian" neighbors. Because I am fifth-generation Chinese, I am very much interested in Chinese history.

Bibliophilia vs bibliomania

Even a true "bibliophile" or book lover owns more books than he or she will ever find the time to read. For the researcher, some books are bought, even if they are never read from cover to cover, because they make handy reference material.

Someone once remarked to me, "*Lugi ka pa*," because I have spent more on books than what I will ever get paid for the articles that I write. This reminded me of the man who said his pocket book might be near empty (from buying so many books) but he knows of no one "richer" than himself for all the books he possesses and has read.

No one will want to admit to being a "bibliomaniac" or one possessed with an insatiable desire to fill up one's shelves (I still think "desire" and "necessity" are entirely two different things.) Buying books can easily get out of hand. I try to read a few lines from the inside pages of a book to see if I really want to buy it. I easily succumb to picking up books that I can also find in many libraries or in CD Rom (like the Blair and Robertson) because it really saves time to be able to write with ready reference material at one's elbow.

Second-hand bookstores are a good place to buy children's books (which are "timeless" anyway) and there are many "good as new" books for children if you are patient enough to go through the stacks. "Books For Less" is nice to visit. There are chairs and tables to make you comfortable. For a certain amount of money spent, they will even give you coffee.

Why people read

People read for many reasons. Some people enjoy fiction and other "light reading" for their entertainment value. They can even be addictive, I am told (and I remember reading a book-a-day when I was younger). Some like to read biographies. Serious ones can be inspiring but others can be merely a voyeur's window to someone else's life.

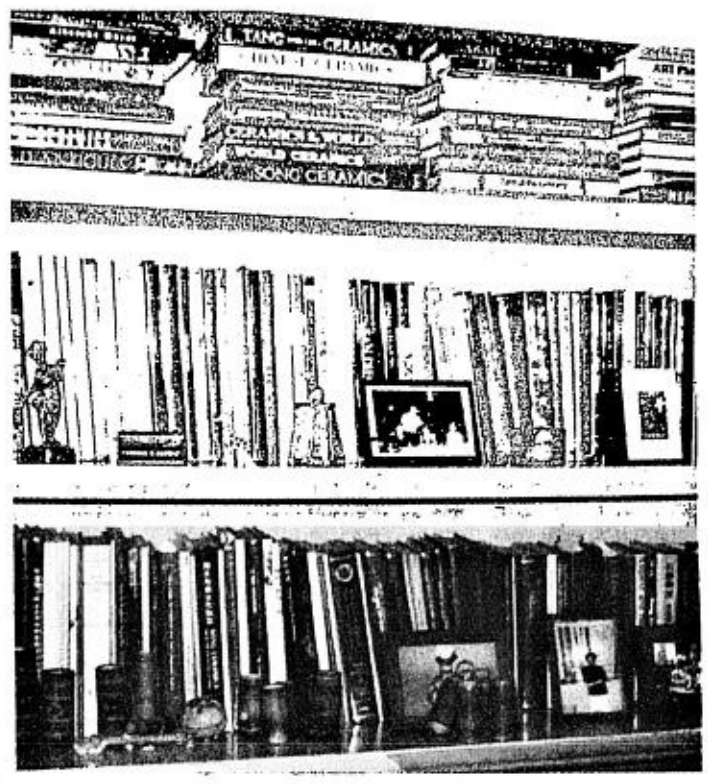
If you can manage to "graduate" from casual to more serious reading, you might find that historical accounts can be quite absorbing, besides which, the information is always valuable. Sima Qian, a Chinese historian, wrote in his book "Shi Ji" (Historical Memoirs ca. 100 BC) that "Events of the past, if not forgotten, are teachings of the future."

Our own education secretary writes social history as "Ed. C. de Jesus." He has produced a few timeless tomes on the Tobacco Monopoly and Philippine social history. These books are inclined to be serious intellectual fare and somewhat "complex," but if you have the tenacity to plow through them (I always read books like these more than once), they can be a rich source of profound insights and information on Philippine society of the period of which it has been written.

Classics

Children's classics are some of my favorite books to collect and read. Stories and verse from across many lands that have stood the test of time are considered "classics." They have earned a place in our hearts and minds. How can we be said to be "educated" if we have not read poetry such as Rudyard Kipling's "If," John Masefield's "Sea Fever," "Auguries Of Innocence" and "The Tyger" by William Blake, "Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe, "The Charge of the Light Brigade" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson; and beloved children's stories such as "Heidi" by Johanna Spyri, "Pinocchio" by Carlo Collodi and "Gulliver's Travels" by Jonathan Swift and "The Song of Hiawatha" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Puffin Books has collected these stories and poems in "The Puffin Treasury of Classics." Also good library items are Dorling Kindersley's "Myths and Fairy Tales Collection" and "The Random House Book of Fairy Tales." These literary gems are not just for children but for adults and the young at heart as well to enjoy.



BOOKS in closets

Joma and Ninotchka. . .

From page C1

ards that Sison continues to face are not as great as that faced by the Filipino masses every day, he says, but these somehow make him more determined as ever to keep to his political faith.

"At Home in the World" appears heavy stuff, though, when one skims through the six chapters of conversations between the two authors about Sison's early years as a young revolutionary, the twists and turns of the revolutionary movement and of the Philippine and global situation.

But, as American publisher Richard A. Koritz explains, this is one way of giving full play to the two writers' literary strengths. Rosca provides the biographical sketch and the human side of the revolutionary while Sison through the interviews synthesizes the thoughts that allow the reader to understand him as a political thinker and why he remains influential not only among activists and revolutionaries at home but also throughout the world.

In the book, Rosca profiles Sison up close so that one gets to know the person as your own average guy, a smoker who quits the vice after a hard struggle, for instance, or who dances and sings during small social gatherings.

"By giving up a life of comfort, by electing to go underground, by involving himself not only in leading but also immersing himself in revolutionary armed struggle," Rosca says of her colleague, "professor Sison hammered home the ideal of praxis: As you say life should be lived, so should your own life be lived... Armchair of cappuccino political theorists have not been held in any kind of respect in the Philippines ever since."

After years of living and writing in New York, Rosca reveals herself—in her own way — as being also "at home in the world" by the sharpness of her inquiries that bring out the gems in Sison's political convictions. This makes "At Home in the World" not only as a collaborative but also a perfect collective work in the best revolutionary tradition.

Kapampangan Studies Center wins Nat'l Book Award for 'Gloria'

ANGELES CITY—The Center for Kapampangan Studies of the Holy Angel University (HAU) here won the National Book Award's translation category for its book "Gloria."

The book is Roman Leoncio's Kapampangan translation of Huseng Batute's verse novel, "Lost and Found."

The "Kapampangan Pioneers in the Philippine Church," also published by the center, was a finalist last year in the history category.

"Gloria" was launched last year by the late Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, who traced his roots to Bulacan and Pampanga. Ambassador to South Africa Virgilio Reyes Jr. and the Center for Kapampangan Studies co-edited the book.

"An obscure poet from Guagua, Roman Leoncio, translated it in the late 1920s, but his work was obviously lost soon after. The manuscripts were unearthed a few years ago under the most (unexpected) circumstances by Ambassador Reyes, a native of Cavite, who then brought them to the center for annotation and publication," Robby Tantingco, the center's director, said.

Bernadette Nepomuceno, HAU president, is a cousin of the ambassador.

Critics cited the book's "unique accomplishment of juxtaposing not only the languages but also the cultures of the Tagalogs and the Kapampangans, the two ethnolinguistic groups that shaped the country's destiny."

"The Pampanga River unites and divides Tagalogs and Kapampangans. It was their common playground and source of livelihood, and it is in the towns around the river where you find the most striking convergences between the two cultures—and yet this same river, only a few meters wide, separates the two worlds," Tantingco said.

He said that as Huseng Batute and Leoncio showed the kinship of Tagalogs and Kapampangans, "so have the people behind the book's publication crossed the river and other great divides to prove that regional languages are but ways of articulating the same national spirit."

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

The do's and don't's of auditioning

Repertory is auditioning Dorothy and other parts for 'The Wizard of Oz'

By Ria Pangilinan
Contributor

DO YOU remember "The Wizard of Oz," the beloved MGM movie musical classic starring Judy Garland? Repertory Philippines is doing its own version this year—and it may star *you*. The audition date for "The Wizard of Oz," Rep's major musical for 2004, is Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m. Make sure you bring your resumé and a 2 x 2 photo.

Never auditioned for Rep before? Here are 10 tips that will help you:

Know the story. Watch the movie, read the book, look it up on the Internet—whatever it takes. You don't have to write a thesis about it, but make sure you know the plot and characters.

Be on time. Never mind if you have to wait a long time for your turn to audition. Directors—especially the ones from Rep—are sticklers for punctuality. It's always better to be early than to be late. And be prepared for a long night.

Sing a song from the musical itself. This may seem obvious, but you'd be surprised how many people would come to an audition for, say, "Les Miserables" prepared to sing "Careless Whisper" by George Michael. Scores for "The Wizard of Oz" are available at the Rep office at Karrivin Plaza, Pasong Tamo Extension. (Take note, though, that some songs from the stage musical are in a higher key than the ones in the movie.)

Know the song. If you're singing while holding a piece of paper with the lyrics on it, you look less confident and prepared. Learn the music by heart. (Just remember how many "American Idol" contestants were eliminated for not knowing their songs.)

Do not sing a capella. Sure, your voice is good enough for you to sing without any music whatsoever. But directors also want to know that you can sing with musical accompaniment.

Be still. No swaying or dancing or (if you can help it) twitching nervously. Just stand there and let your singing tell the story. And no weird hand gestures, please. This is an audition, not a declamation contest.

Be ready to dance. If you make it past the singing auditions, be prepared to learn some choreography. This will take another 15 minutes or so.

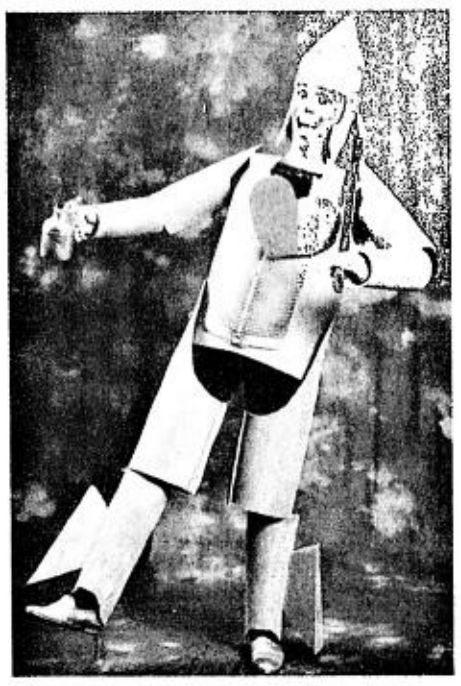
And be ready to act. It's not all about singing and dancing—you have to know how to act as well. Once you've passed the singing and dancing auditions, you'll be asked to read from the script. Even though it might make you feel silly and self-conscious, say the lines like you mean them. If you're supposed to be the Tin Man, do not pretend you're the Tin Man. Be the Tin Man, if just for a moment. And make sure you can be heard. If you act shy, you will not get the job.

Be bulletproof. Even if you did a great job, you may still not get cast. After all, there are thousands of talented people in this country, and there are just so many roles in the show. You may have done terrific at the singing, dancing and acting bits, but maybe the director was looking for someone taller, or fatter, or with different hair. It could be anything. Don't sweat it. There's always a next time, right?

Dorothy, is that you? Okay, this is not really a tip, but it's important. (And "Ten Tips" has a nicer ring to it than "Nine Tips.") We're on the lookout for a 10-14 year-old girl to play Dorothy. She should (of course) be able to sing, dance and act, and must be able to do weekday shows. We also need a Good Witch and a (tall) Wicked Witch. Other roles are also open.

And that's it, really. Want to know more? Call Repertory Philippines at 8870710. See you on Aug. 29 at 7:30 p.m. Oh, and as they say in theater, "Break a leg!"

DOROTHY, Cowardly Lion and Scarecrow



TIN MAN

Books on parenting and family care

NATIONAL Book Store offers books to help parents make the right decisions for their family.

"Getting Your Child From No to Yes," by Jerry Wyckoff and Barbara C. Unell

This book offers practical, peaceful ways to get children to follow directions without a power struggle. Parents will find simple, easy-to-use strategies to motivate their children to cooperate in everyday situations. By understanding why children say no, and by using encouraging strategies, parents can build positive relationships with their children based on trust and love.

"Merck Manual of Medical Information 2nd Home Edition," by Mark Cotta Vaz

The long established bible of medical doctors and almost everyone in the field of medicine is for the first time written specifically for the non-medical reader. Featuring over 1,500 pages covering diseases, causes, treatments and drugs, this is the finest one-volume medical authority every home should have.

Poet Fidel Rillo to lecture on punk and poetry

THE ORAGON Literary Circle, in cooperation with the UP College of Arts and Letters' Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature, will present a lecture by Fidel Rillo, "Ang Punk sa Panulaang Filipino," tomorrow, 9 a.m. at the Pulungang Claro M. Recto, Bulwagang Rizal (Faculty Center).

Rillo will discuss the poetic styles developed in recent years by young writers such as Vim Nadera and Allan Popa.

Oragon advocates the development of Filipino culture through literary and creative projects such as lectures, workshops and publications. After the lecture, Oragon will launch the latest edition of "Hulagway," which contains essays on the poetry of Cirilo F. Bautista and the achievements of the latest crop of talented Filipino poets.

"Hulagway" also features new poems by Oragon members.

E-mail hulagwaypoets@yahoo.com.

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Nutren is a delicious meal replacement product and supplement in powder form – a breakthrough from the Nestlé Research Center in Switzerland. Known and prescribed by doctors, Nutren provides support for medical conditions where the role of nutrition is vital. In itself, Nutren is more than a complete meal since it contains whey plus all of the essential nutrients, vitamins and minerals in **every** glass.

In fact, Nutren contains at least 3 times more whey protein than any other commercially-prepared food product or homemade alternative. Whey protein has been clinically proven to:

- help maintain muscle mass throughout aging and repair body tissues[1]
- help boost the immune system by raising levels of glutathione (an **anti-oxidant**), thereby helping reduce the risk of infection[2]

	WHEY
Nutren Meal Replacement	HIGH
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Where have all the good singers gone?

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

AFTER covering the performing arts scene for more than three decades, I notice a perceptible decline in the quality of talents and, with it, the quality of taste.

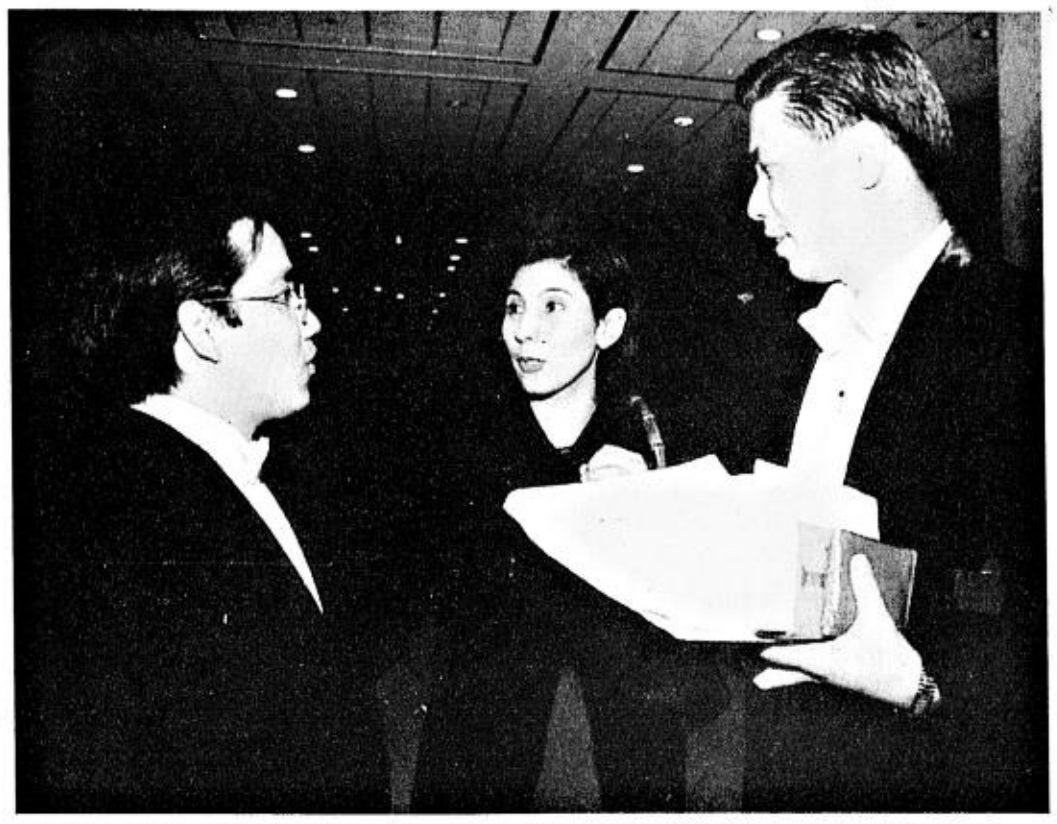
I have started to wonder where all the good singers have gone.

In the '70s, Evelyn Mandac debuted in the Metropolitan Opera, Eleanor Calbes enthralled audiences from Manila to Vancouver, Montserrat Caballe debuted at the Manila Metropolitan Theater (Met), and Placido Domingo and Eva Marton did an unbeatable "Tosca" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

We had baritone Gamaliel Viray, soprano Conching Rosal doing a Filipino version of "Carmen," and Lilia Reyes making waves in Manila and Moscow.

JOAN Cano, soprano

GMA's Sona did not give an indication that worthy classical artists of this country would ever be considered cultural heroes



SOPRANO Andion Fernandez with baritone Jonathan Zaens (right) and conductor Rodel Colmenar after a Philamlife performance

Romanian at the Met

In the '80s, Manila raved over Romanian diva Nelly Miricioiu at the CCP and at the Met. Andion Fernandez and Luz Morete were the young singers to beat at the National Music Competition for Young Artists or Namcya (they were the lead singers in the last production of Felipe Padilla de Leon's "Noli Me Tangere"). Tenor Noel Velasco won the Pavarotti Competition in Philadelphia and tenor Otoniel Gonzaga debuted at the CCP and Baguio City.

I thought I heard a first-class "Carmen" in Isola Jones who played opposite the Don Jose of Velasco, who looked like her younger brother.

In the '90's and early into the new millennium, tenor Nolyn Cabahug shone in a controversial Filipino version of "La Traviata" directed by the late Rolando Tinio; tenor Gary del Rosario made a big leap from Manila to Cleveland Opera, then Seattle Opera; Fernandez was a hit as Pamina (in "Magic Flute") in Singapore, ending up in a Berlin Opera House; Gonzaga became the first and last Filipino to sing the title role of Othello in Japan, Prague and Germany; baritone Jonathan Zaens shone in Germany and perked up the Filipino Artists Series with a quality recital matched by another superb baritone, Andrew Fernando.

Soprano Rachelle Gerodias remains a festival and concert favorite, but is doing more singing in Hong Kong, Singapore and other foreign places than in Manila.

Live performances

Impresario Rose Marie Arenas gave Manilans their first live Luciano Pavarotti and Andrea Bocelli (the two are poles apart in stature, although the former actually discovered the latter) concerts. The couple who fled after the Country Waffles fiasco arranged the first live performance in Manila of Jose Carreras, who was Miricioiu's Alfredo in a production of "La Traviata" in Spain.

Rediscovered recently were tenor Lemuel de la Cruz and Cabahug, who should be doing more recitals. Noel Azcona is the new exceptional baritone, good enough to keep company with Fernando and Zaens.

After Morete, Fernandez and Gerodias, who is the next soprano most likely to bring back excitement in singing?

From the University of the Philippines College of Music, there is Alexis Edralin.

Most promising

But the latest product of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, Joan Cano, is the most promising of the new breed and should get all our support. That she got one of the highest grades in the history of graduation recitals in UST was no accident.

Cano has the voice, the looks and, most of all, the thrilling sense of phrasing and line; she's like a promising Joan Sutherland.

Providing these young artists the support they deserve will not only give us a strong republic, but a country that still cares for the soul amid the embarrassment of new scams and controversial elections.

This country gives millions of pesos to athletes who do well and spends millions for information on kidnapping cases. But promising artists remain in the background, begging for droppings from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and to have the CCP as a venue for performances and for orchestra subsidies.

Millions are appropriated for those who help government forces track down kidnappers, and for someone who beat his opponent's face to a pulp to bring boxing glory to the country.

Never been to Malacañang

During the time of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, classical artists of consequence, from Cecile Licad to Zaens and Fernando, to young prodigies like Oliver Salonga to Chino Gutierrez, had never been to Malacañang, unlike Taiwan telenovela superstars and "Star in a Million" winners and crime suspects.

Cabahug and Gerodias, with the Peace Philharmonic, graced a Malacañang reception for diplomats but were more like backdrops to diplomatic chatter. Lea Salonga is a lot luckier because she has made a name in Broadway and West End musicals (therefore no stranger to President George Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair), has endorsed products that had her vocalizing in public and was recently named Entertainer of the Year.

The new State of the Nation Address of GMA did not give an indication that worthy classical artists of this country will ever be considered cultural heroes.

When the support and patronage for classical singers finally stop, this country will be known as the territory of crooners and belters and torch singers.

If the trend is not reversed by cultural workers and cultural institutions, belters and Josh Groban wannabes will take over the CCP while classical singers will only be heard (and paid a pittance) at weddings and funerals and corporate shows.

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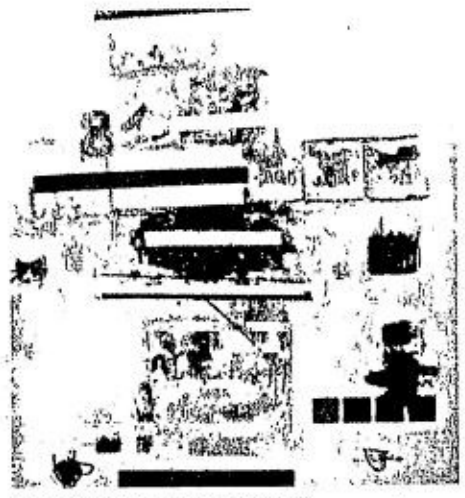
"FOUR and the Infinite Eight"

The reductivist art of Bobby Nuestro

The battle over numbers in the last elections inspires these abstracts which verge between Art Brut and computer graphics

By Constantino C. Tejero

SOMETIMES in art-making, a simple design element, compositional play, or accidental stroke of the brush can suggest the metaphysical.

Such is the reductionism we see in Bobby Nuestro's "Numerus," eight pieces in acrylic and graphite on canvas and nine on paper, until today in The Drawing Room, Metrostar Bldg., 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.

To see the metaphysical concerns of these seemingly unfinished pieces, one has only to read the titles: "Numbers and Faith," "Infinity and the Quest for the Higher Being," "Cloud Nine Amidst the Misty Morning."

This is a sophisticated abstraction that verges between *l'art brut* and computer graphics, rendered in raw umber, yellow ochre, sap green, Naples yellow, red oxide, orange, turquoise. Three of the pieces are in black and white.

"I'm partial to subdued color, classical coloring," says Nuestro. "For contrast. Or to create compositional stress. A controlled play on composition."

Unlike many Filipino artists who have an inherent *horror vacui*, Nuestro thrives on reductive content. His pictorial frame is never clogged with color, line or form.

Here the exposed paper or canvas (unprimed) is filled only in parts with patches of wash, calligraphic scratching, straight lines and squiggles, diagrams, numerical figures, squares and rectangles, bands of color resembling pixels.

"*May* chaos, *pero may* order," says Nuestro. "*Gumagalaw. May* stress. *Matagal nang* concept 'yan, *ginawa na ni* Kandinsky."

Natural expression

He says he conceptualized this show after the recent elections. The canvassing of votes, particularly, gave him the idea of a series of paintings using numbers.

And so he integrated into these pieces some code numbers,

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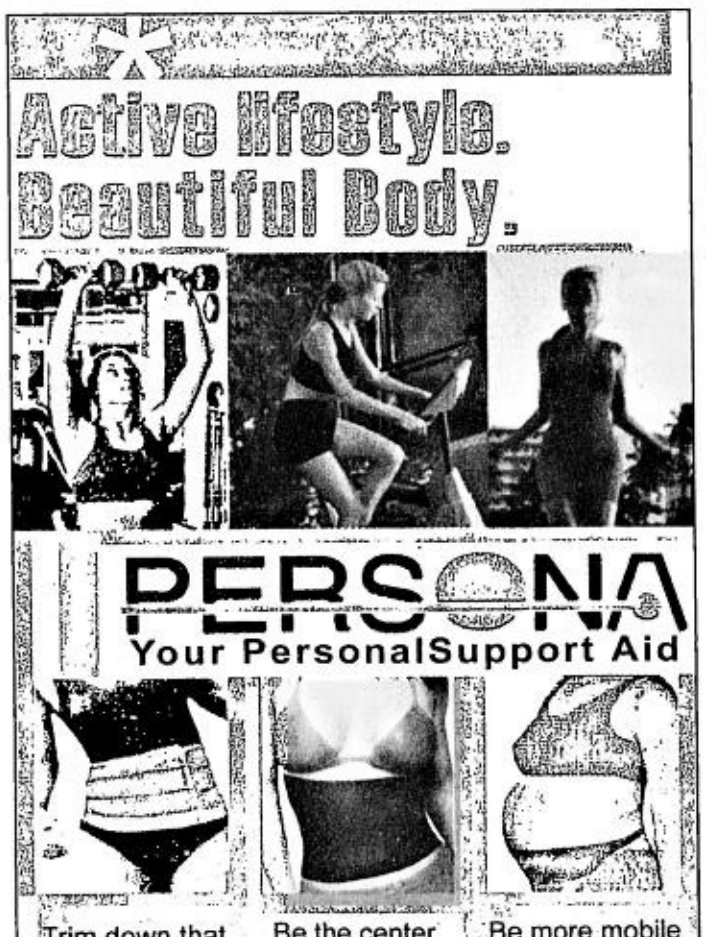

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BY FRANCIS DRAKE

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Birthdate of: Shelley Long, actress; Gene Kelly, actor/dancer; Barbara Eden, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day for mental work. You're far more attentive to detail than usual. You also want to find the best technique to do something.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day to express yourself clearly to others. You feel playful and prankish. You don't have to justify everything that you do—just have fun.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're definitely dealing with past issues now. You might want to withdraw so that you don't have to confront something. Unfortunately, it's not going to go away.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is not the day to try to stay at home and relax. On the contrary, the tempo of events is fast and exciting. Do your best to keep up with this crazy pace.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Even though you're concerned with finances now, what you're really thinking about is whatever you value in life. It's important to define your sense of values so that you know you're working for what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You need increased exercise. Tension with others about past issues could build up within you. You'll definitely speak your mind now!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Even though you need more time to be by yourself, you might have to work with the government or large institutions. Try to achieve a balance if you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might want to examine your attitude toward a particular group today. Talk over problems with friends. Someone younger might help you sort something out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day to talk to superiors, bosses, employers and parents. You might have to deal with procedural red tape (always hard to avoid).

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is an excellent day for study, education and sharing new experiences with others. It's also a good time to travel. You're interested in other lands and foreign cultures now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions about finances and shared possessions are likely today. Clear up old business regarding insurance, red tape and jointly held property.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day to clarify something to someone. You might want to discuss difficulties that have come up. State your case, because others will listen to you now. Correspondingly, you have to listen to others as well!

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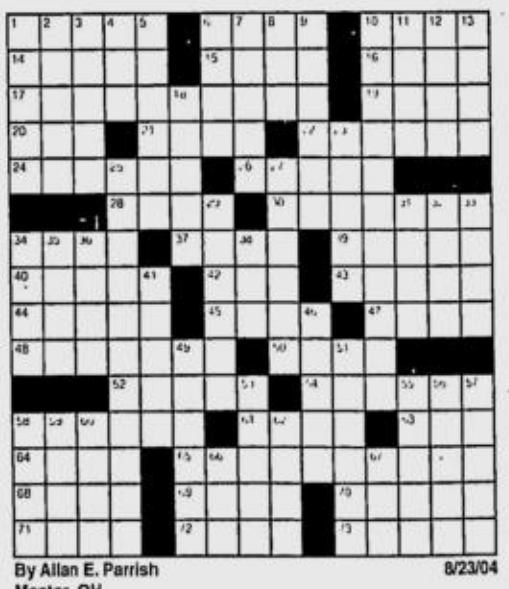

By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH
8/23/04

ACROSS
1 Muscle protein
6 Bronco prodder
10 Fair and square
14 Flora and fauna
15 Sushi fish
16 About
17 E.D.S. founder
19 Have in mind
20 10 of dates
21 Pueblo people
22 Power
24 Save
26 IBM feature from 1981
28 Young sheep
30 Make a vow
34 Painful
37 Carolina rail
39 Vivarin rival
40 Crude crosses
42 With what intention
43 Zhou of China
44 Vinegar vessel
45 Leopold's partner in crime
47 Bank seizure, briefly
48 Non-woody vegetation
50 Carpenter's groove
52 Larry Storch on "F Troop"
54 Continue
58 PBS news anchor
61 Eye part
63 Buddhist Thai
64 State as fact
65 "The Path to Power" author
68 Stout's Wolfe
69 Buffalo's lake
70 Obscuring vapors
71 Was familiar with
72 Lift in Aspen
73 David of "Just Shoot Me"

DOWN
1 Find repugnant
2 Goddess who loved Odysseus
3 Restaurateur Shor
4 Part of TGIF
5 City on the Merrimack
6 Procedure part
7 Jewish festival
8 Numero __
9 Like a movie for 17+
10 Doctrine president
11 __-friendly
12 Male affair
13 Theater award
18 Verse works
23 Nary a soul
25 Bonnie Parker's partner
27 Neutered
29 Derby hat
31 Stagnant
32 Cleansing agent
33 Pinza of "South Pacific"
34 St. Louis site
35 Central part
36 Appointed time
38 Pi follower
41 Period in a process
46 Pastry chef
49 Top room
51 Fatalities
53 Ancient kingdom on the Nile
55 Public square
56 Moved the dinghy
57 Hangman's knot
58 Long and lean
59 Tied
60 In this place
62 Stray off course
66 Poetic globe
67 Ballplayer's topper

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The artist frolics and takes flight with color

Fermin's brush with flight

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

ONCE, Anthony Fermin trained to become a pilot. But he changed his flight plan and made paintbrushes fly across empty canvases. His strokes now mimic the movement of winged creatures. Sometimes flitting like birds, other times like butterflies gliding gracefully, awash with colors.

The result—pieces lively and effusive, like his other works showing festivities or children at play. His latest collection in a show with Karla Gobin at the Food & Art Galerie in Makati consists of acrylics and watercolors that explore the frolic of the young.

"Alibangbang" is a peep through what look like massive tree trunks, one of them strangely translucent, through which an orb can be seen. In between the trees is a pond that reflects the shapes of two girls trying to catch butterflies with a net. The orb seems the moon, bathing the clearing with light.

Arcs and dabs of color, from yellow and green to red and dark blue to violet, serve as the backdrop. Reminiscent of Russian painter Marc Chagall's expanses of swirly dark splashes, as in the piece gifted by Julia Roberts' character to that of Hugh Grant in the movie "Notting Hill."

Fermin, however, has become increasingly fond of using brighter hues even if he says he identifies with purple. Though the aubergine tone in its darkness connotes nadir for most, Fermin contrasts this with yellow as his zenith. Yellow represents his dreams.

Symbolic color

In this sense, he shares Chagall's ability to utilize symbolic color. They may be non-descriptive, like his green, gray and orange skies, but they convey gaiety nonetheless. Fermin's works invoke the recollection of games once played, as if to say no childhood passes without the carefree, time-and fatigue-oblivious activities. The same way Roberts' character was moved to say of Chagall's piece: "It feels like what love should be..."

Fermin admires Picasso, whose style inspired linears and angulars in some works of Chagall. Although the constantly raised arms of Fermin's subjects is also a feature of the Russian's icons, the parallelisms end there. There is no similarity in figuration except perhaps in the former's earlier works.

In "Jumping Rope," movement is effectively shown in the direction of the brush, the curved rope echoed by arches of color that appear smoothly smudged. Buildings in the background are tall and shingle-roofed, testament to Fermin's memories of Europe.

In 2000, Fermin hied off to Germany with earnings from a show in a Cebu beach resort and the help of a German patron. His main purpose was to visit an uncle. Fortuitously, from being inspired to paint by Europe's grand architecture, landscapes, and rich history, he went on to represent the Philippines in the Expo 2000 Hanover Art Exhibit.

Trips to France and Spain have afforded him greater exposure, buttressing his art.

In Hanover, his rendition on an ostrich egg gave him the chance to help South African children through the Nelson Mandela Foundation. He hopes to do the same locally, alleviating the lives of needy Filipino youth through his exhibitions—the nexus to his purposely naïf art.

Fermin has a solid following in Cebu, where he resides, has captured audiences in Europe, and is exhibiting in Manila and Negros. Perhaps with the art that he creates continuously and tirelessly his flight with the ideal of "promoting art and culture" has reached its destination.

Food & Art Galerie is at GT Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati. Call 7525678.

E-mail the author at jejaro2002@yahoo.com.

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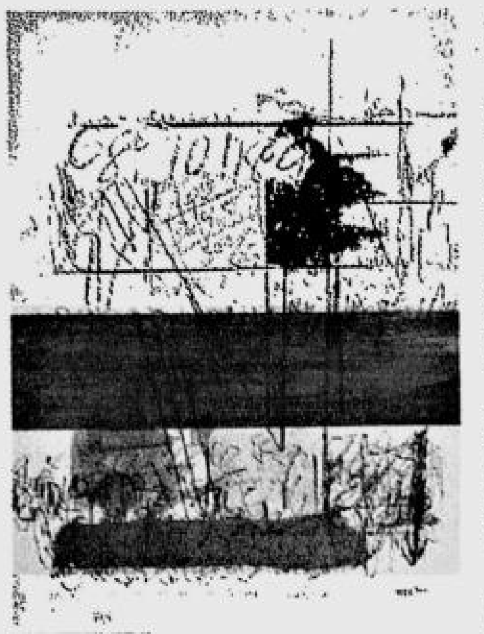
The reductivist art of Bobby Nuestro

From page D1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cellphone numbers, bank account numbers, even *jueteng* numbers.

"*Yung* diagram, numbers *din 'yun, e—may mga sukat-sukat,*" he says. "*Lahat na yata ng tao puro numero.*"

He admits, though, that it had been done before. Some years ago he saw an exhibit of José Joya's textured paintings in oil using numerals as motif.

"I'm not much into discourse now," he says. "My concerns here are how to handle material, technique and process. Natural flow of creativity and expression *lang*."

One might even consider that Nuestro's becoming a painter was accidental, as he started painting only to pass the time while confined for three months in the hospital for a serious injury from a fraternity rumble in Letran College, where he was then enrolled.

Later, much to his parents' chagrin, who wanted him to become a lawyer, he took up Fine Arts, major in Painting, in Philippine Women's University.

Artists he admires include Cy Twombly, Lichtenstein, Franz Kline, Fernando Zobel, Mars Galang, Joya. He particularly warms up to the simple lines and calligraphic strokes of Oriental artists.

"Most of our young artists now are more concerned with form," he says. "*Sa bata, gusto ko mga taga-UP, 'yung grupo ni* Chabet. *Gusto ko trabaho nina* Jayson Oliveria, RM de Leon, Junie Salvador."

Natural process

As much as possible, Nuestro would like to apply the natural process in his art-making. He wants to reduce art to the bare essentials.

At one time he used in his works only the four colors known to the Hanunuo tribe of Mindoro: red, green, white and "dark." At another time, he used for coloring only squid ink and vegetable juices (sap of guava leaves, tea leaves, grasses).

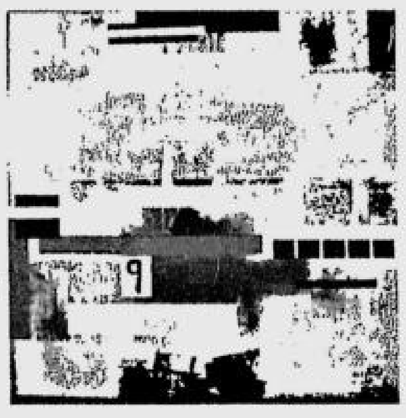
For texturing, he still applies what he learned over a decade ago: layer upon layer of automotive acrylic, lacquer paint, enamel paint, or industrial paint, then painted over with oil. He isn't so excited about the textural materials or adds-on widely available now.

"*Lahat ngayon* texture *na, hindi mo na makita ang* basic drawing," he says. "*Kaya 'pag* mixed-media, *hindi na ako masyadong na*-excite. *Daya-daya na 'yan, e. Mga bata ngayon madali na lang makakakuha ng* textural materials."

In his multidisciplinary approach to art-making, he even applies native spirituality. While he paints, he practices what he describes as "the Filipino way of meditating."

He jogs along the beach or goes swimming, until he is exhausted, and only then does he enter his studio to work.

"When you do that, the process of work *magaan na sa 'yo, dahil nasa* meditative stage *ka na*," he explains. "It is called 'giving breath.' Delicate *ang* result *ng trabaho mo*."


"CLOUD Nine Amidst the Misty Morning"

By applying reductivism in his art then, Nuestro can create pieces of Oriental austerity and digital simplicity yet thick with layers of meaning. Here the universe has been reduced to numbers.

And, of course, the ancient Greek mathematicians knew that all along.

ARTHUR de la Cruz is holding his fourth solo exhibit, "Soulscape," at the new NCCC Mall in Matina, Davao City. A graduate of UST Fine Arts and a Sacred Heart brother for 11 years, De la Cruz shows his forays into abstraction while tackling his constant theme of spirituality. The show will benefit the Scholarship Fund for the Poor and the Lumad of Davao City and Davao del Sur, and the Save the Young Volunteer Program. Photo shows the opening with Msgr. Paul Cuizon, the artist, Helen Lim of NCCC, writer Aida Rivera Ford and Tina Dotimas. Call 2983622 or 2972122.

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b. Bring the damage unit
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d. Accomplish Claims Report Form
e. Any requested documentation to support the claim
B. Loss Claim
a. Proper Identifications
b. Police Report & /or excerpt from the Blotter (reported within 24 hours from the time of accident)
c. Payment slip and/or Official Receipt
d. Accomplish Claims Report Form within 48 hours.
e. Any Proof of ownership
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Palencia at 139, 'Charms' at Le Soufflé, Perez at Heritage

VISUAL ARTS

J. PALENCIA presents his latest abstract works in the "Harmonics" series on Aug. 27-Sept. 8 at Gallery 139, 3/F, Glorietta 4, Makati.

LE SOUFFLÉ presents "Charms of September II" on Sept. 2-30 at Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong. The exhibit features the works of Myrna Buendia, Paulino Garcia Jr. and Marisa Romero.

AL PEREZ mounts his solo exhibit, "Nude Painting of the Stars," until Sept. 3 at Heritage Art Gallery, 4/F, Megamall A. Featured movie stars are Rosanna Roces, Diana Zubiri, Maui Taylor, Katya Santos, Tracy Torres, Patricia Javier, Aya Medel, Sharmaine Suarez, Rose Valencia, Cassandra Ponti, Andrea del Rosario, Ynez Veneracion, Gracia and Julia Lopez.

FINALE Art Gallery presents Alvin Villaruel's "Beacons" until Aug. 28 at 4/L, Megamall A. Villaruel uses photographs as the basis of his oil paintings. Thus, the works play up sources of light.

THE BLUMENTRITT Group of Artists will hold "A Toast to Life" on Aug. 24-29 at Lopez Hall, Center for Asian Culinary Studies, 455 P. Guevarra St., San Juan. Participating artists are Ed Soler, Allan Cosio, Popoy Cusi, Greg Bolaños, Hermes Alegre, Egai Fernandez, Jonah Salvosa, Andy Cubi, Gino Tioseco, Gene Gonzalez, Carlo Saavedra and Randy Española.

THE "MAGIC Pencil" traveling art exhibit and "Meme Na," the annual exhibition of Ilustrador ng Kabataan members, are running until Aug. 24 at the 3rd and 4th levels of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong.

GALERIA de las Islas (3/F, Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila) mounts Danilo Sola's "Tints and Shapes" until Sept. 9. The exhibit features works on collage, mixed media and mono prints.

PINTOR Kulapol, a group of artists from Negros Occidental, holds an exhibit until Aug. 30 at Syano Artlink, 19 Shanghai St., Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque. Participating artists are Art, Lamis, Coberos, Burog, Carton, Rios, Bogie, Dumancas, Nuklar, Juanica, Blancaflor, Trece, Vierneza, Doronila, Dequito, Silva and Alvarado.

THE PAINTERS Club of the Philippines Group will conduct an on-the-spot portrait sketching session with live models on Aug. 28 at Galeria de las Islas in Intramuros. The group will also render still-life paintings using different media and styles. Participating members are Ronald Cortez, Domeng Labordo, Nik Masangkay Jr. and Roland Santos. Call 5272113.

FILIPINAS Heritage Library on Makati Avenue (near the Peninsula) hosts "The Eye of Writing: Poetry Workshop for Beginners," on Aug. 25 and Sept. 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call 8921801.

THE ALCOVE Photo Gallery at the Filipinas Heritage Library offers "Primer on Lighting" on Aug. 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The lecture will tackle lighting, focusing on artificial light sources. "Tabletop Studio: Mastering Light for Product Photography" will be held on Sept. 4 and 11. Call 7593371/ 8921801.

GALLERY Genesis presents the 21st Kulay sa Tubig watercolor exhibit at the Art Center, 4/L, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Exhibit runs until Aug. 29. Call 6338137 to 38.

"IHOM Harmonics No. 222," by J. Palencia

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Lunuganga, architecture of surprises

STORY ON PAGE E2

WITHIN the vast garden of Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa, plants define intimate outdoor "rooms" enclosed by free-standing walls that frame selected vistas.

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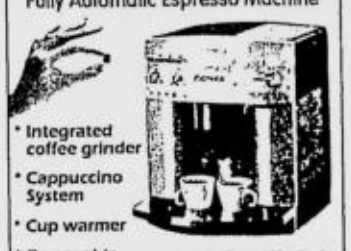

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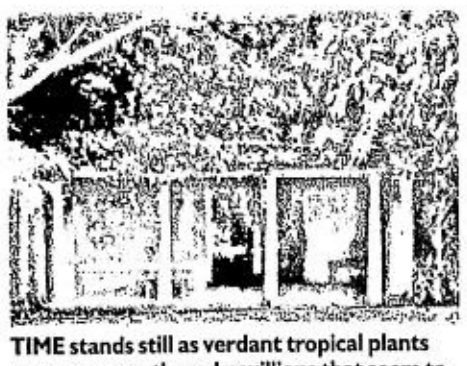
Lunuganga, architectur…



TIME stands still as verdant tropical plants overgrow weathered pavillions that seem to have been in the garden forever.

A CHINESE jar forms the foreground focus of an expansive vista that goes past the garden boundaries.

IN complete harmony with the natural slopes of the garden, simple architecture follows the terrain.

GEOFFREY Bawa (1919-2003) is probably the first Asian to evolve into an international architectural icon.

At an era when old architecture was rapidly being discarded in favor of the new, the Sri Lankan architect proudly drew upon the traditions of his own culture to develop a personal, contemporary style rooted to his own cultural and environmental origins.

Bawa's fusion of traditional and modern developed as the inspiration of an Asian style now reinterpreted by local architects all over the region.

Aside from combining old and new, the Bawa style merges architecture and nature so seamlessly that it is almost impossible to separate one from the other. Buildings grow out of nature while buildings enhance nature. Lunuganga is the best example of that style.

Lunuganga, once a Dutch cinnamon plantation and then a British rubber plantation, is Geoffrey Bawa's private 10-h estate about 60 km south from Colombo.

Getting there takes a harrowing two-hour crawl along a coastal highway that skirts through dense population until reaching an unmarked turnoff to a smaller road that branches inland. After snaking through villages set in dense tropical landscape, the road leads to a causeway crossing the neck between Bentota River and Dedduwa Lake. The narrow road ends at the moss-covered gate to the estate, practically hidden under dense foliage under tall tropical hardwood whose leaves dapple the strong sunlight.

A gravel driveway winds steeply uphill to end at a cascade of steps leading to the southern terrace of a low bungalow set atop a small hill, the main house from where the entire garden explodes into view. The bungalow is at the center of the landscape design and the only location where all of the separate garden separate elements are revealed.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

Sri Lanka's Geoffrey Bawa is an international icon

Vast garden

It is a vast garden consisting of many smaller parts. To achieve the succession of open and intimate areas, Bawa began moving hills in 1948, to cut terraces, to replant woods, to open up new vistas, continuing with his landscaping work until a few years before his death in 2003.

His stamp is everywhere. The original one-story bungalow was turned inside out but its original shell survives within a cocoon of new verandahs, loggias and courtyards.

Lunuganga is a totally man-made landscape.

FREE-FLOWING natural form… garden paving.

Here and nowhere

By Carlo M. Tadiar
Contributor

A Parokya ni Edgar song may yet show heritage architects why the Burnham plan didn't work out

Conclusion

PERHAPS there's something instructive in a three-time failure? The exhibition notes recall that there were several Filipinos sent to the US to study architecture, and they came back and built the era's landmarks in the neo-classical style in which they had been instructed. They're all lovely buildings, like the germinal set at the Padre Faura campus of the University of the Philippines, soignee, finely proportioned.

But perhaps something could be gained by scrutinizing the manner in which the architecture has been completely translated by local usage and in a manner entirely at odds with the original aesthetic intent. One only has to visit these buildings to witness the transformation of spaces meant to achieve grand effects into: mezzanines within mezzanines, alcoves within niches, labyrinthine enclosures within majestic halls meant to showcase amplitude and stateliness.

Perhaps something could be gained by staring at the actual in relation to the fantasy of The Plan, or the nostalgia for it.

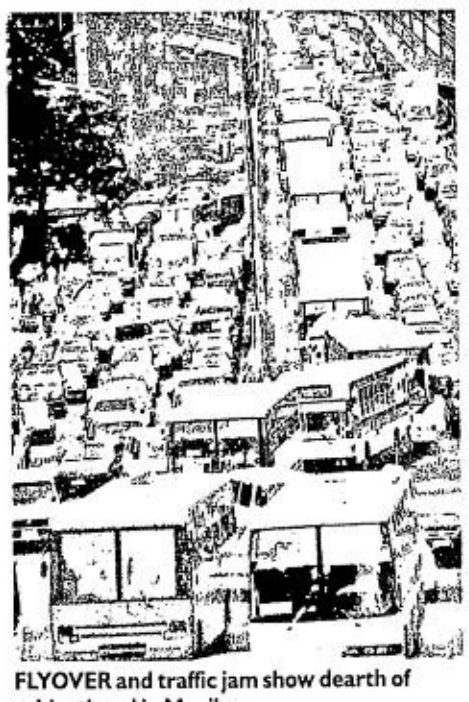
"I, like most residents maneuver around [Manila] without a mental aerial map (without even a sense of North, South, East and West)," says Neferti Tadiar in "Manila's New Metropolitan Form" in the anthology of critical essays, "Discrepant Histories." "Instead I get around with images of seriality, that is, routes that I can trace by imagining a flow of adjoining objects on particular pathways."

In this essay on the effusion of flyovers during the Aquino administration, Neferti is herself tracing a physical, political-economic as well as a cultural map of Manila, and she notes the city is devoid of a sense of transcendence, that mental overview which structures a place like Manhattan (the archetypal opposite of Manila), where one can, from almost any point and almost instantly, locate oneself.

Indeed, in Manila it takes more than a few moments to get one's bearings on the rare occasions that we are hoisted to a high-rise view of the city.

For Neferti, a more accurate "map" of Manila would be a representation of the infinite and harrowing density of the existential experience of the city, "its thickness... its crowds and traffic, its dirt and pollution, and its relentless assaults on one's senses." If there were a monument by which Manila could be identified, its Eiffel Tower, it would be that, the congestion and its ever-shifting, constant turmoil.

Neferti says flyovers help produce the effect of subjecthood by raising those with automobiles (buses were supposed to take the low road) out of the morass of non-humanity that comprises the bulk of the city. It must be understood that in a city like Manila, many, if not the majority, fall outside the realm of personhood or subjecthood, like squatters or people without cellphones. They are not part of "us"; they are explicitly, clearly, incontrovertibly "them." In a symbolic and yet also very real sense, they are devoid of a life—because they have no money.



FLYOVER and traffic jam show dearth of subjecthood in Manila.

Subjecthood

The preciousness of subjecthood in this mortifying morass that we call our hometown is brilliantly expressed in the song "Ambulansya" by the band Rivermaya. Penned by the band's frontman Rico Blanco, the song is an extraordinary and important work of art.

It has an operatic drama and a lyric voluptuousness; it's like a rocker's aria. And it's about the traffic.

It's also about identification, about identifying with another under circumstances--such as Manila, such as traffic in Manila-where sanity is dependent on adeptness at dis-identifying, other-izing, dehumanizing.

It begins with the subject of the song, the singer, getting stuck in traffic:

hindi na tayo gagalaw
hindi na tayo aabante
ano kaya ang dahilan?
construction ba
o merong nagsalpukan?

The subject is relieved to hear the siren of an ambulance.

'sang binatilyo and sakay
akap ng nobya ngunit
walang malay
mahal niya ang
magulang niya
nais niya lamang sanang
lumipad
Ortigas, Sucat at Libis
sing ang hari ng bilis?

The subject, evidently driving, tailgates the ambulance: *"hala, sige! tutukan mo!"* he cheers himself on. *"Kunwari'y kasama ka!"* Finally, he's free from the traffic. Then just as he's congratulating himself, the ambulance swerves and he slams into a truck.

parang wala kong nadama
parang wala kong narinig
halik ng bubog sa pisngi
tuhog ng bakal sa bungo

The song ends with a refrain of its first line: *"hindi na tayo gagalaw/hindi na tayo gagalaw..."*

There's a marvelously clever mirroring and ambivalence in the narrative, a kind of Mobiüs strip circularity. The driver-subject winds up dead like the suicide he takes advantage of, but there is a sense that he is that self-same person in the ambulance, partly because of the loop of the story line, partly because, as we learn towards the end, the subject is singing through his own death, from a point beyond the existential. We have this impression also because the singer so thoroughly identifies with the youth he sees in the ambulance (and yet whose tragedy the driver must need take advantage of), whom he somehow knows loved his parents but simply wanted to soar.

There is also a direct correlation in the kid's flight, his assumed sense of dominion over the metropolitan sprawl, and the driver's self-congratulation at his having outwitted traffic jams and those stuck back there. *"Sino'ng hari ng bilis? Sino'ng hari?"* is supposed to have been uttered by the suicide, but it could just as well have been boasted by the driver.

Against others

In psychoanalysis, this is a kind of utterance made from the point of the ego-ideal, that subject position from where we see ourselves from the point of view of others (or the Other), like those people stuck back there in traffic, whom we imagine to be envying us when we have the license of a siren, a "wang-wang," when we leave them to eat our dust (*Sinong hari? Sinong hari?*).

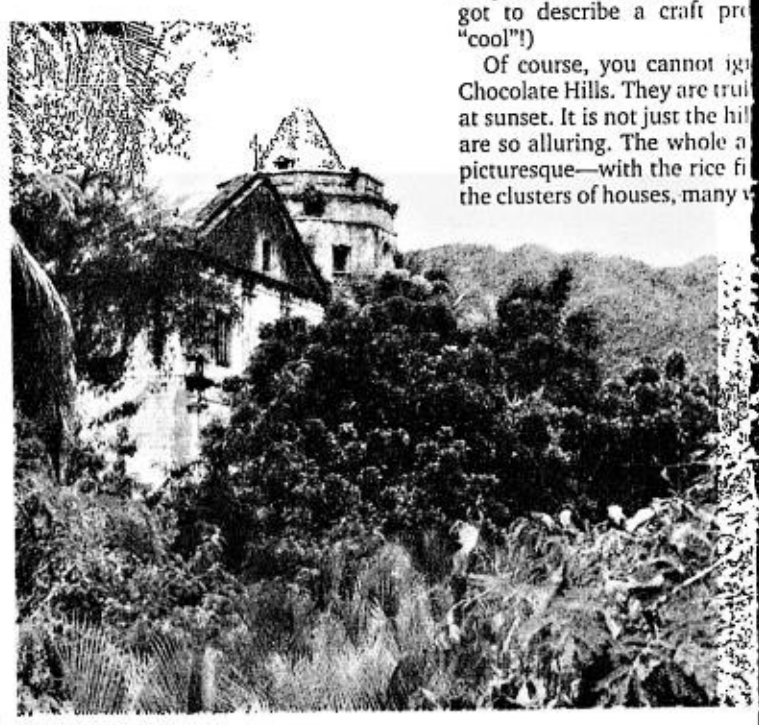
This is what I mean when I observe the difficulty of achieving personhood or subjecthood in such a setting as Manila. One must transcend, fly over the morass of social contradiction, which, as a denizen, one is necessarily part of and, indeed, part-cause. The difficulty stems from the plenitude of that morass—the traffic—which is not just a physical gnarl but equally a political, economic and social one as well.

"Ambulansya" captures the profundity of that gnarl, its overwhelming-ness, the sense that the only escape from it is death. The song also surprisingly echoes Neferti's "map" of Manila, an academic analysis.

Despite the catastrophic conditions we live in, works of extraordinary imagination and intelligence continue to be produced. You just have to have the right map to get to them.

HAND-COLORED woodblock engraving (1856-1857) of busy Manila street

ANCIENT stone steps connecting Loon uptown and downtown



MARIBOJOC Church

BOHOL. A land of splendid … architecture, vibrant crafts, … rivers and yes, sparkling beac…

This last feature is, in sor… the province's undoing. … comes for the beaches. And … stay there. Very few are aw… much else there is to see.

I know I should really ta… the architecture, but hey, let' … the shopping! The crafts are … ful. There is this adorable bas… ket held every Sunday in the … town of Antequera. You have … up very early to get there … Otherwise all the good stuff a…

My favorite buys are the … picnic baskets with segmente… If you are really lucky you … some that are made of bl… which are rare.

There is a basket for ever… snake in existence. There a… chests, mats, Kelly bags...I … kidding about the last one. … they actually have these brill… ven handbags with the … shapes! (Congratulate me: … got to describe a craft pr… "cool"!)

Of course, you cannot ig… Chocolate Hills. They are trul… at sunset. It is not just the hil… are so alluring. The whole a… picturesque—with the rice fi… the clusters of houses, many …

Celebration of …

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

"SHAMAN Shouting," by Salvador Convocar

THANKS to the annual Kulay… Invitational Watercolor … Competition, the pet project … and Ernie Salas of Genesi… many watercolor artists hav… to and kept faith with the d… the medium, surpassing the … er's expectations of what aqu… do.

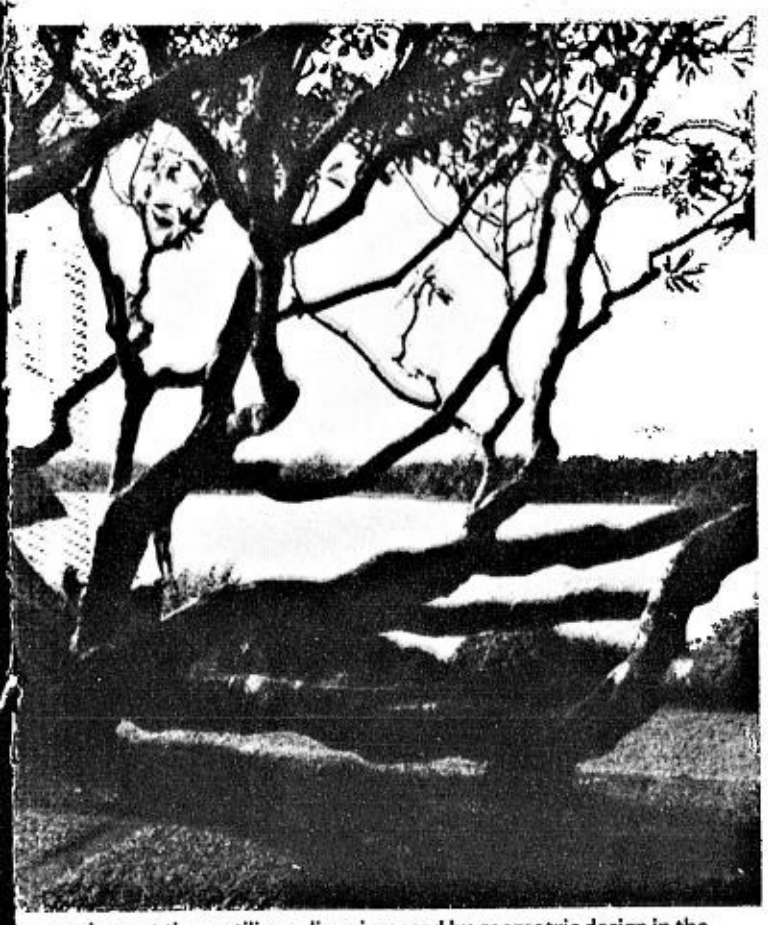
The entries this year numb… the biggest haul to date. They … watercolor artists just keep g… ter and better.

The participants seem to … have to live up to the highest … as set by those who have won… elevated to the Kulay sa Tub… fame.

The top 5 winners—Salvad… car, Antipas Delotavo, Domeng… Noli Manalang and Pablo Baer… figured prominently in the ra… of the board of jurors (chai…

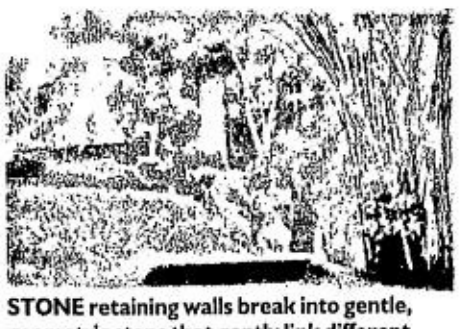
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

e of surprises



s complement the rectilinear lines imposed by geometric design in the

SCULPTURAL trees, lakeside marshes along the side of a trimmed lawn, and a rice paddy are a carefully chosen palette of natural shapes that frame the water vista.



STONE retaining walls break into gentle, geometric steps that gently link different levels of the garden.

SHAPES, textures and colors enclose an intimate outdoor alcove in the vast Lunuganga garden.

Although conceptualized in the grand style of the gardens of Renaissance Italy and the 18th century English garden, it reinterprets classical Europe in a tropical hothouse setting of exotic trees and plants that grow abundantly in the wettest and most fertile region of Sri Lanka.

Its imposing, expansive vistas go past the garden boundaries, giving the illusion that the garden goes on forever.

On one side of the garden, "Cinnamon Hill" is a gentle vision, a hill with broad, clipped lawns framed by fully grown hardwoods framing its slopes. The view takes the eye far away, to a lake at the edge of the property and over to the outlying hills on the opposite shores laurelled by a Buddhist stupa.

Another vista stretches until the horizon. The extensive vista begins at the bungalow terrace, drops in levels to end at the garden's lakeside rice paddy that visually connects to the broad agricultural landscape on the other shore.

The view constantly shifts from the grand to the intimate. The charm of Lunuganga is in the unfolding of a series of intimate areas within the large formal garden. One space leads to another in a sequence that seems so logical but so natural. What an experience that is.

Unending surprises

Walking through the garden is an unending series of surprises. There is spatial intrigue. Constantly there is something to draw the viewer into a new experience at the end of each vista: garden walls, ranges of planting, moss-covered walls, secluded seating areas perfect for meditation, pools, pavilions or a series of houses arranged around outdoor plazas.

Architecture complements nature at Lunuganga. It is hard to tell whether it is the architecture that enhances nature or vice versa.

Bawa built a simple, elegant structure called the "Hen House" a Portuguese-tiled roof supported by four thick piers with wood lattice walls.

Next to the Hen House was built the Sandella (Garden Room), an exquisitely proportioned pavilion that ends an open terrace next to the main house. From this eyrie, Bawa could keep an eye on the driveway and entrance terrace on one side, and from the other he could see through the trees as far as the lake below and the causeway kilometers away.

In reality nothing in Lunuganga was left to nature but the landscape is so natural even if in reality it was shaped totally by the hand of man.

"Only architect-type people go to Lunuganga," said correctly our hired driver when he realized that he could not convince our little band of architects to see the usual temples, beaches and regular tourist spots in southern Sri Lanka. Rarely visited, Bawa's place is far off the regular track that the driver was not sure of how to get there. We made sure that he got us there.

Experiencing Bawa was a strong incentive to accept an invitation to participate in a heritage conference in Colombo. While there, our little band of architects and heritage specialists embarked on a private pilgrimage to Lunaganga to experience Bawa first-hand. After the conference ended, our pilgrimage continued to his beachfront hotels, houses and public buildings, and what a pilgrimage it was.

Our Bawa experience left us totally convinced that for us to produce architecture relevant to the culture and environment that it is situated in, an understanding of tradition is essential.

That is one of the things that pride of place is all about.

E-mail feedback to afvillalon@hotmail.com

Bohol the beautiful

ALL4ART

Bea Zobel Jr.

characteristic diamond patterned *sawali*. I recall how at the Bohol exhibit at the Met, there was a 19th-century painting of the Crucifixion of Christ that was clearly from the island because you could see what looked like the Chocolate Hills in the background!

Just as impressive for me was what they call the "Man-made Forest," which you drive through on the way to the Hills. The for est cover is so luxurious that once you are in the leafy shadows, it suddenly becomes so dark even in the middle of the day. The locals like to relate that this huge stand of trees was planted by boy scouts and students, hence its name.

Three cheers for political correctness! More than anything, we can see in this forest how a little caring, how a little effort can have such grand and lasting results!

Well-preserved churches

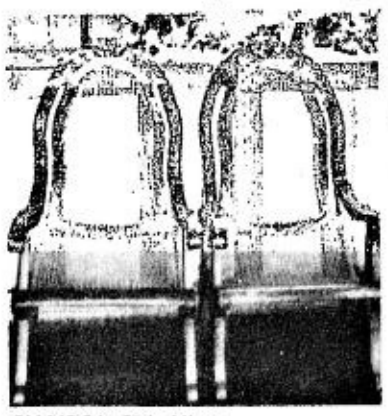
Then there are the churches. By some stroke of luck, Bohol has some of the most beautifully preserved church interiors in the country. All kinds of theories have been advanced. There is even a lovely story (I don't know if it's true) that the island's churches weren't destroyed during World War II through the intervention of a Japanese officer. He happened to be Catholic.

What has survived is truly worth seeing. There is Maribojoc with its splendid mauve *retablos*, Dimiao with its carved façade (and don't miss the award-winning Rondalla!), Dauis with its wide green mall and its *convento* facing the sea. There is Baclayon, which is often described as the Philippines' oldest church. This is a constant source of irritation for historians who point out that this is not true. San Agustin in Intramuros is older, as are a number of other churches. Of course the locals were indignant when informed that their claim to fame was incorrect. A friend of mine notes that what is lost in this whole discussion is the fact that Baclayon doesn't need the honor of being the oldest to be worth seeing. It has arguably one of the most beautiful church interiors in the Philippines. I wish tour operators would stress this more.

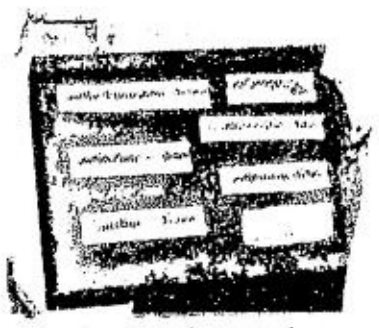
When you enter you cannot but be moved by the splendor of what you encounter. The carving is exquisite. I have never seen *retablos* like these. Then there are the splashes of green on the wall and the mellow light coming through the colored glass windows. There is even one *retablo* that is painted with a pattern that looks like that of a Murano paperweight!

Three churches maintain museums: Baclayon, Loboc and Maribojoc. These are truly treasure houses. Baclayon, for example, has these wonderful silver pieces with that charming face-in-the-ferns pattern that I also saw in Tayabas. I am so happy to discover these little windows into the playful side of our ancestors. Other highlights include a tabernacle with a tiny image of the Christ reverse-painted on glass, multi-colored vestments, and a door with quaint floral decorations.

Tragically, the museum visitor will also be told the horror stories about the many thefts. In Maribojoc, robbers broke in through the ceiling.



CHAIRS in Sitio Ubus



SIGNS showing stolen *santos* in Maribojoc

They then clambered down to the floor (more than five meters down!) by rope—shades of "Mission Impossible"! Sad and silent testimony to all of this is the little display with the names of the various *santos* that had been stolen.

Meanwhile, in Loboc, robbers had almost made off with a silver bible stand which was later found abandoned in some bushes. Luckily it had been dropped in the haste of getaway. This bible stand is even inscribed not only with the name of the town but with a date, 1776. Imagine, such an incredible piece of the town's heritage would have been lost if the theft had succeeded.

Fabulous river

Loboc is also blessed with a fabulous river on which one can take a relaxing cruise on restaurant barges. A friend of mine once told me that on a trip to Western China, he found it so funny how all the other tourists were exclaiming over the magnificent temples and palaces. In contrast, the Filipinos were so impressed to see a stream with clear water!

And this is truly what makes Loboc's river special—it is so clean and fresh. The breezes that blow off it are so cool and enchanting. One passes patches of forest and wooded cliffs. And one ends up in a tiny enclave with a waterfall. On one level it is quite sad: clean rivers are so rare in our country! Lunch is served on board the barges. The food is simple but delicious.

And as if the river were not enough, the town has another gem—the world-famous Loboc Children's Choir. The first time I heard the kids, I couldn't help myself. I cried like a baby. The voices were so angelic, the faces so innocent. *Hay*! You think to yourself, how can we ever be deserving of such beauty? I have been a fan ever since.

Recently the kids went on a European concert tour. They even competed in an international choir contest in Barcelona, and they won the grand prize! Unfortunately, news about the choir's victory was hardly featured in the media.

Part of the reason for the concert tour was to raise funds for Loboc's Tuburan project. This is an ambitious visionary program involving the Diocese of Tagbilaran, the Met Museum and local counterparts to transform the town's huge Spanish colonial convento into a heritage center. There will be galleries, music facilities, conference facilities, and there will even be a bed and breakfast. Programs are also be being designed to study and revitalize the town's unique and extensive musical and crafts traditions. A planning process is being instituted to ensure that Loboc's immense cultural resources are marshaled for community development and the enhancement of people's lives. This proves that the arts can really help people. This proves that the arts really mean jobs. I am happy to note that the province's governor, Erico Aumentado, is quite supportive of this initiative.

There is a lot of work to be done to improve the quality of life in our country. When things look bleak, it's good to know that there are places like Bohol that still retain so much in terms of our cultural resources. This is one of the greatest sources of wealth for our nation. After all is said and done, the thing which is so special about Bohol is that it is a place which gives us all hope.

E-mail comments to beartist@filipinaslibrary.org.ph or write to Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati City.

"THE UNVEILING"

Filart dons the 'Kimono'

CARLOS Filart opens "Kimono: Clothing the Muse" at the Galerie Joaquin of The Podium on Aug. 26, at 7 p.m.

The 12 works are 30 x 20 paintings done in mixed media such as gouache and acrylic.

For this show, Filart retains his fascination with beauty and the female form, but combines it with a newfound interest in ancient Japanese fabrics and patterns.

Filart used to be an advertising executive before he decided to become a full-time artist. He had won a CLIO award for his ad campaigns. He is a graduate of the University of the Philippines School of Fine Arts, where he trained under Jose Joya and sculptor Boy Caedo.

Call 6347954 or 7239253.

Sotheby's holds lecture on care of paintings

TOMORROW, Sotheby's will present Helmuth J. Zotter of Zotter Restoration, Inc, who will provide practical tips on the "Care of Paintings." His talk will cover the construction of paintings, Surface blemishes, defects in paint, ground: weakness and damage, flaws in the support, and the housing, handling and moving of Paintings. He will show actual footage of the paintings he has worked on.

The lecture starts at 6 p.m. Slots limited. Call 8848241-43.

water and color

Established names dominate 21st Kulay sa Tubig

Torres, with Alice Guillermo, Felipe de Leon, Eric Zerrudo, Richie Lerma, Constantino Tejero and this writer as members).

The five led the pack with their technical virtuosity, creativity and originality, with the last factor ultimately making the difference.

With his unabashed abstract rendering in "Shaman Shouting," Convocar displays his solid grasp of line, color and composition, evoking a postmodern post-industrial age. He turned in two entries, and his winning entry was more sparing and subdued in ambience of the two, a virtual maze of geometric shapes from its top view, a beguiling work that easily merited the judges' nod.

Delotavo, a distinguished social realist (SR), was finally back with a vengeance with "Akit Puhunan," a disturbing social portrait of a scavenger pushing his *kariton* of salvaged junk, and corrupt politics as represented by the corridors of power with a triad of nude bodies. The work is part-satire and part surrealist.

Labordo, who had languished in the shadow of his mentor, Caloy Gabuco, was a pleasant surprise, turning in a piece that departed from his usual mother-and-child figures. Prodded by the gallery owner to be more daring and innovative, he chose the subject of a lush landscape of cut cogon stalks, "Kagingking," which was novel and daring.

Though there were many photorealist entries, Labordo's piece was simply out of the ordinary and the prettified, a pitfall to many watercolorists.

In "Mary Abandon," the young Manalang shows a diptych of two figures, a girl and a boy, with their usual gadgets of toys and appurtenances, dreaming of fantasyland. Done in Manalang's trademark surrealism, the work is entrancing in its colors and close details.

Another SR artist, Pablo Baen Santos, now a reborn Christian, shows his newfound faith in "Urban Renewal," executed in his powerful expressive style.

The five runners-up—Demetrio Dela Cruz, Sandra Dos Remedios, Caloy Gabuco, Fred Ramirez and Adriano Valino—displayed their own share of mastery of the medium.

Dela Cruz played up the luminous effect in his work showing stones submerged in water. Both Gabuco and Ramirez, staunch abstractionists both, had their suite of cosmic landscapes capturing the sheer majesty of a monochrome field jazzed up by contrasting dynamic forms and iridescent hues.

Her subject is a tried and tested one, but Dos Remedios' rendering of a bunch of golden coconuts dangling from a branch is technically admirable.

Ditto with Valino, whose evocation of Pinoy kites is both charming and unpretentious, which, according to one juror, are what aquarelle must essentially do.

"MERRY Abandon," by Noli Principe Manalang

Winners and the other entries are on exhibit at the Art Center and Gallery Genesis, both at the fourth floor of SM Megamall, until Aug. 29.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com.

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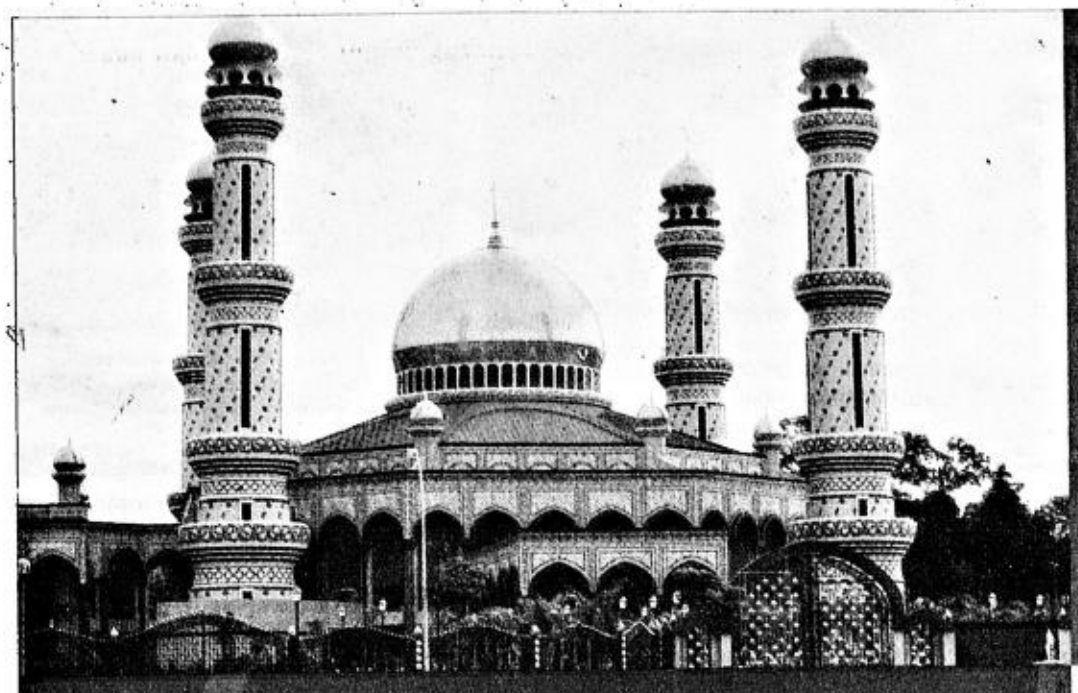

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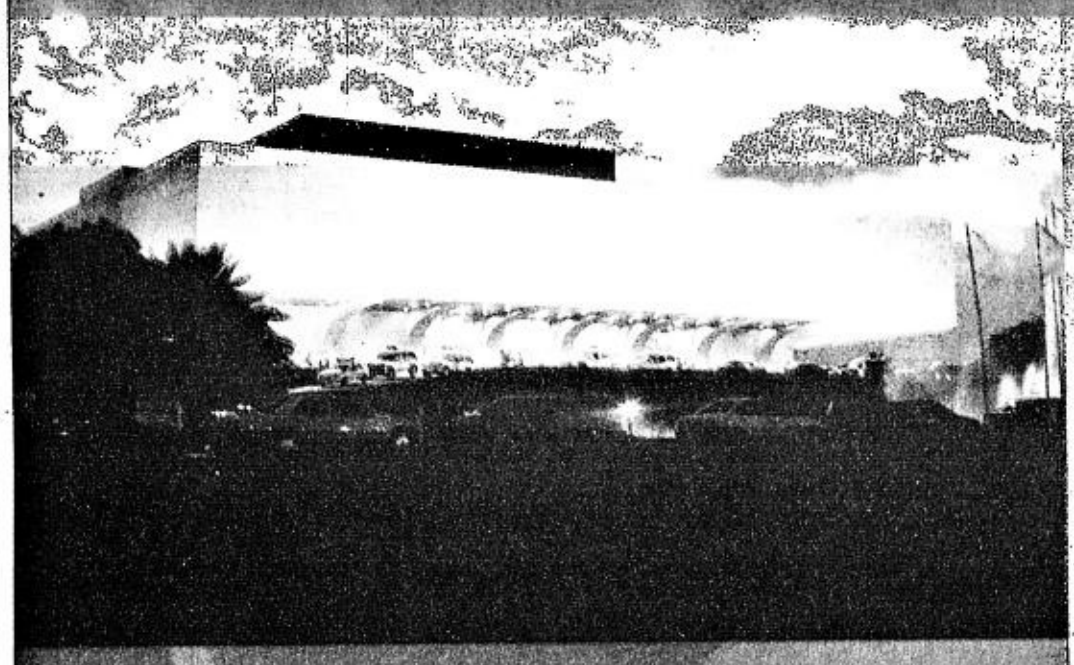

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